

Alaska Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement

Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

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The Environmental Partnership Agreement is available on both the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's and EPA's Internet home page at the following addresses:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/env.conserv/home.htm>

EPA, Region 10

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Alaska

Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement

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Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement Alaska

I. Guiding Principals

A. Introduction

In May 1995, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) along with the 50 States proposed a new environmental partnership to encourage continuous improvement and foster excellence in state and federal environmental programs. This new approach is called the National Environmental Performance Partnership System.

This partnership approach, which the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and EPA Region 10 have embraced, means mutually agreeing on priorities and both parties working together to accomplish them. This Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement formalizes this partnership approach for state fiscal years (FY) 1998 and 1999 (July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1999).*

The purpose of this agreement is to:

- Maintain a core level of environmental protection for all of Alaska's citizens.
- Establish mutual environmental goals, objectives, activities and performance measures for state fiscal years 1998 and 1999.
- Allocate the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and EPA Region 10 resources to the highest environmental priorities of the state.
- Establish a joint work plan that reflects the allocation of EPA Region 10 and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation resources.
- Initiate the measurement of environmental progress using outcome measures and environmental indicators that reflect environmental conditions, trends and results.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and EPA have a shared responsibility for meeting the environmental and public health priorities of Alaska. This agreement will evolve over the next few years. Both the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and EPA are committed to improving the public participation process in helping us determine our goals and objectives.

*all references to fiscal years are state fiscal years unless noted otherwise.

B. Missions of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the US Environmental Protection Agency

Vision: The Department of Environmental Conservation envisions a future for Alaska's citizens in which the quality of life is enhanced by the quality of their environment. We will assess, protect and enhance environmental qualities in partnership with community and business interests, and in concert with the economic vitality of the state.

Mission: The Department of Environmental Conservation carries out the policy of the state to conserve, improve, and protect its natural resources and environment and control water, land, and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being, and fulfill the state's responsibility as trustee of the environment for the present and future generations. AS 46.03.010

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's mission is to strengthen families and job opportunities through a cooperative stewardship with the citizens of Alaska that ensures protection of public health and the environment. The department is charged with preventing and responding to air, land, and water pollution; assuring safe drinking water and wholesome food including fish, meat, and dairy products for consumers; ensuring basic standards for sanitation in public facilities; and providing technical and financial assistance to communities for water, sewer, and solid waste facilities.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is responsible for both fundamental public health programs and for the complex regulatory needs associated with economic development. The department's approach is to work cooperatively with regulated businesses, communities and the public to achieve clean air, land, water and a healthy environment.

Vision: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 envisions a future where government, industry, and the public work together as stewards to protect, preserve, and improve the environment and health for all species in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

Mission: On behalf of the people of the United States, the mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 is to protect and restore the environment of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska for present and future generations.

The environmental objectives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) are to:

Protect diverse ecosystems and ensure healthy airsheds and watersheds;

Prevent pollution through source reduction;

Reduce the generation of land, air, and water pollutants;

Clean up contaminated sites.

EPA will use sound science and wise decision making to accomplish these objectives by:

Maintaining an in-depth understanding of the Region 10 area and focusing our efforts on the greatest risks to human health and the environment;

Ensuring compliance with federal environmental laws within and across boundaries, while considering national consistency and local circumstances;

Working effectively with state and local governments, tribes, citizen groups, and industry to solve environmental problems;

Assisting state, local, and tribal governments to develop environmental programs;

Talking with the public about our actions and about steps the public can take to protect the environment;

Promoting faster and more efficient solutions to advance sustainable environmental quality;

Advocating regional needs and perspectives at the national level.

C. Agreement Coverage

This agreement is based upon the National Environmental Performance Partnership System, which will enable Alaska to shift from separate air, water and waste planning, to overall planning for Alaska's environment. It will allow the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and everyone we serve and work with to focus on environmental results, customer service, and efficiency. We believe it will be a significant improvement for both DEC, EPA and Alaska's environment.

For several years, DEC and EPA, Region 10 negotiated a annual State/Environmental Protection Agency Agreement, referred to as the SEA or SEPA. It contained the work plans for federal grant assistance for the air quality, water quality, drinking water, facility construction, pesticide, underground storage tank, hazardous waste, CERCLA, ground water and wellhead protection programs.

This new agreement for FY98 and FY99, contains the work plan for all EPA grants including air quality, water quality (water body assessment and recovery, water quality management planning, groundwater protection, wetlands protection, and non-point source pollution control), drinking water, facility construction (Municipal Grants and Loans, village safe water, and operations assistance unit), pesticides (pesticide enforcement and pesticide applicator), underground storage tank program, wellhead protection, CERCLA, hazardous waste and pollution prevention programs.

In addition to programs that receive grant funding from EPA, this document describes all other Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation programs and is intended to provide a two-year work plan for all programs. Activities/work plans funded by EPA grants are, however, covered in more detail than non-grant funded activities. The activities contained in this agreement reflect those mandated by state and federal laws and the priorities of the department given available funding. Because an activity is not included does not mean it is not important but that resources are not available to support it. Table 1 shows funding and full-time equivalents for programs.

D. Compliance and Enforcement Principles

The purpose of compliance and enforcement actions is to ensure safe and consistent management to protect public health and the environment. Enforcement is an important and effective tool toward the primary goal of assuring compliance. In addition, compliance provides a level playing field for businesses because all operate under the same fair and reasonable standards.

EPA, Region 10 and DEC will communicate regularly on compliance and enforcement activities in Alaska. Compliance assurance agreements define the relationship between EPA and DEC for delegated programs and will be reevaluated toward the goal in FY98 of crafting one document compatible with the March 1997 Draft Region 10 Enforcement and Compliance Strategy.

DEC and EPA agree on two key objectives:

- Use appropriate compliance incentive and compliance assistance policies and tools to improve and maintain compliance by regulated entities.
- Use appropriate enforcement tools to protect the environment and to identify and reduce significant noncompliance in high priority areas.

EPA will have the lead compliance responsibility for non-delegated programs, on tribal lands and for federal facilities unless otherwise agreed.

Increasingly in the future, compliance will be measured in terms of environmental results as our capability to do so improves. In the meantime, compliance with environmental law will measure in traditional ways:

- number of inspections, percent inspected for priority activities and areas;
- enforcement activities initiated and concluded;
- period of time for significant violations to be corrected; and
- recurrent violators.

Two-way information sharing is important. The Department of Environmental Conservation will provide required information to support national data information systems, and EPA will provide required compliance and enforcement information to DEC on a timely basis.

E. Tribal Assistance Programs

EPA, Region 10 will be providing \$4.7 million to tribal organizations in Alaska in fiscal year 1998 in the form of General Assistance Program grants. These grant funds will primarily be used to assess the environmental needs of tribal communities as a basis for setting environmental priorities. How funds will be distributed in Alaska for other EPA programs with set-aside funds for addressing tribal environmental needs, such as the drinking water state

revolving fund program, has not been determined. EPA will consult with DEC before deciding on how these funds will be distributed.

II. Program Goals and Objectives by Division

A. Air and Water Division

The **DIVISION OF AIR AND WATER QUALITY** is charged with preventing, monitoring, and controlling emissions into the air and water to protect public health and the environment.

1. Air

The **Air Quality Maintenance Program** controls significant, stationary sources of air contaminants to protect and enhance air quality and abate impacts of contaminants on public health and the environment. The **Air Quality Improvement Program** controls mobile sources of air contaminants and monitors air quality.

GOALS

Implement the Alaska Air Quality Permit program as required by AS 46.14 and by the Federal Register Notice approving the state program, in an efficient and cost effective manner.

Attain air quality standards in communities that do not meet the health based air standards.

Manage Alaska's air quality resources to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.

Maintain state primacy of the air quality program.

OBJECTIVE: Use the air quality permit and programs to manage Alaska's air resources while ensuring the productivity of the state's businesses, protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Alaska, and meeting the Clean Air Act's requirements.

DEC will:

Construction (Title I) permits

Review permit applications and issue Title I construction permits.

Submit copies of draft permits to EPA for comment.

Assist industry with permit application development.

Develop non-road engine regulations that meet Title I requirements.

Operating (Title V) permits

Review permit applications and issue 1/3 of operating permits by December 1997, with an additional 1/3 by December 1998.

Use general permits whenever feasible.

Submit copies of draft permits to EPA for comment.

Simplify the implementation plan by reducing unnecessary documents and language to improve readability and useability.

Rewrite Alaska's construction permit program regulations to more closely meet the federal requirements; EPA will provide technical assistance consistent with available resources.

Address deficiencies noted by EPA in Alaska's operating permit program regulations consistent with the Clean Air Act.

Compliance Assessment and Follow-up

Within the first quarter of each fiscal year, work with EPA to establish an inspection schedule, including identifying the agency responsible for each inspection and follow-up.

Follow the existing Consolidated Compliance and Enforcement Agreement (CCEA) until EPA and DEC review and revise.

Review compliance reports, certifications and excess emissions reports and take appropriate corrective action pursuant to the CCEA.

Audit selected owner-requested and preapproved limits.

Evaluate the environmental and/or public health benefits achieved through inspection and enforcement activities.

Develop and adopt hazardous air pollutant emission standards applicable to sources in Alaska.

EPA will:

Construction (Title I) permits

EPA will review selected permits and assist DEC to ensure that permits meet the Clean Air Act's requirements.

Assist DEC to integrate and emphasize pollution prevention and geographic initiatives.

Work with DEC to prioritize and review Alaska's stationary source implementation plan submittals.

Delegate selected New Source Performance Standards to DEC.

Delegate new hazardous air pollutant emission standards applicable to sources in Alaska and deliver compliance assistance to affected sources, especially small businesses as requested.

Operating (Title V) permits

Review selected permits within 45 days to ensure that DEC is writing permits that meet the Clean Air Act's requirements.

Develop compliance program performance and evaluation criteria in cooperation with DEC.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (DEC & EPA)

Number of construction and operating permits issued.

Number of facilities inspected.

Reduce construction permit processing time.

Reduce operating permit processing time.

General operating permits used wherever feasible.

Formal enforcement action is initiated consistent with timely and appropriate guidance.

Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS) contains timely and accurate facility information.

Average time to return a significant violator to compliance or enter enforceable compliance agreements.

OBJECTIVE: Assure appropriate action is taken to bring nonattainment areas into attainment for carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM)¹.

DEC will:

Improve the structure and rewrite the Air Quality Control Plan and State Implementation Plan (SIP) to remove obsolete, unnecessary material and allow for efficient use of the document.

Continue to work with Anchorage and Fairbanks to assess their carbon monoxide (CO) attainment status and correspondingly modify the control programs, as appropriate, to demonstrate attainment with the health based standards. Principal projects to be completed are as follows, subject to the availability of funding.

Develop a Technical Analysis Protocol by October 30, 1997.

Prepare an emission inventory by April 1998

Perform modeling analysis that will determine attainment prospects by June 1998.

¹PM refers to particulate matter or dust. If PM is followed by a number such as PM10 or PM2.5, the number refers to the size of the particulates. A PM10 particle is less than 10 microns in diameter. PM2.5 particles are just 2.5 microns in diameter or approximately two-hundredths the width of a human hair. Currently the ambient standard is for PM10 particles. However, EPA is in the process of establishing a standard for PM2.5 (sometimes referred to as fine particles).

Complete alternative analysis and prepare amendments for public review by December 1998.

Complete public review and hearing by February 1999.

Complete state adoption process and submit to EPA by June 1999.

Provide technical assistance related to CO and particulate matter control strategies as needed.

Continue to work with Juneau to assess their attainment status and correspondingly modify the control programs, as appropriate, to demonstrate attainment with the PM₁₀ health based standards, subject to the availability of funding.

Update attainment plan, including emissions inventories, as necessary.

Continue to work with the Mat-Su Borough to assess their attainment status. Principle projects to be completed are as follows, subject to the availability of funding.

Develop a Technical Analysis Protocol by December 15, 1997.

Develop emission inventory by June 30, 1998.

Work with the Borough and EPA to determine the attainment status by September 1998.

Initiate SIP amendment if needed.

Work with the Anchorage and Fairbanks vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) programs to ensure continued compliance with federal requirements, subject to the availability of funding.

Incorporate and implement new onboard diagnostics (OBD II) requirements by January 1, 1999.

Provide inspection and maintenance planning and technical assistance to local programs as needed.

Assist Anchorage and Fairbanks with inspection and maintenance enforcement efforts by taking action on violators of program requirements.

Coordinate with transportation planning agencies and communities to ensure transportation plans, programs and projects conform to the Clean Air Act requirements.

Work with local transportation officials in reviewing various plans, programs and projects for conformity with the State Implementation Plan.

Update conformity regulations and State Implementation Plan as appropriate to maintain consistency with federal requirements.

Update mobile source plans, regulations, and programs as needed due to federal revisions to Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA), subject to the availability of funding.

Update State Implementation Plan to take advantage of flexibility provided by allowing additional credit for the Alaska inspection and maintenance program, including Technician Training Credits, subject to the availability of funding.

Continue to assess the applicability and need for oxygenated fuels, low sulfur diesel fuels, and alternative fuels, subject to the availability of funding.

Issues permits to control area responsible parties (CARs) to blend gasohol during control periods.

Ensure compliance through monitoring the oxygen content in the gasoline during the control period.

EPA will:

Provide conformity guidance and technical assistance to DEC.

Provide guidance and technical assistance with inspection and maintenance program requirements.

Work with DEC to ensure that the low sulfur diesel petition is addressed by October 1, 1997.

Assist DEC with technical strategies for CO nonattainment areas to ensure that the Clean Air Act requirements are met.

Work with DEC and Anchorage to ensure that the PM10 Memorandum Of Understanding commitments are met.

Work with DEC to streamline the State Implementation Plan.

Provide guidance and technical assistance on oxygenated fuel program requirements.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (DEC & EPA)

Carbon monoxide (CO) concentrations in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Carbon monoxide emission trends.

Particulate matter concentrations in Alaska cities.

Particulate matter emission trends.

Number of exceedances for criteria pollutants.

Number of nonattainment areas by criteria pollutant.

Number of people living in areas with air quality above the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Monitor trends for vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

Track fleet emissions.

Document I/M program effectiveness by conducting surveys in program areas.

Number of inspection and maintenance notices of violations (NOVs) issued
Number of oxygenated fuels samples meeting data quality objectives.
Number of oxygenated fuel NOVs issued.

OBJECTIVE: Conduct ambient monitoring of air pollutants, in accordance with State/Local Air Monitoring System (SLAMS) and National Air Monitoring System (NAMS) criteria.

DEC will:

Operate CO monitors in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Operate PM10 monitors in Anchorage and Juneau.

Evaluate adequacy of the monitoring network for possible implementation of new standards for fine particulates (PM2.5) by January 31, 1998.

Operate PM fine monitors subject to adoption of standards, reference method and availability of funding.

Conduct special monitoring studies, subject to availability of funding.

Mat-Su Valley PM-10 monitoring project will continue, subject to available funding.

Purchase replacement equipment in accordance with the state's amortization schedule, subject to the availability of funding.

Conduct field monitoring in support of natural and human-caused disasters, providing air quality advisories for the protection of public health.

Conduct statewide air quality investigations of suspected pollutant sources to protect public health and environment, subject to the availability of funding.

EPA will:

Assist the state in designing monitoring networks.

Review data submitted for completeness and accuracy.

Assist the state in statistical analysis of monitoring and meteorological data to assess ambient trends.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (DEC & EPA)

Number of special studies conducted to determine the air quality in Alaska.

Percentage of monitoring sites meeting data quality objectives (e.g., SLAMS/NAMS: data capture, precision and accuracy, etc.).

OBJECTIVE: Improve database and information sharing to federal, state, local and other agencies.

DEC will:

Participate in EPA's reengineering of the AIRS reporting system on industrial facilities.

Maintain the AIRS databases to ensure reporting of statewide data to the public, EPA and industry.

Enhance computer matching software to identify evaders of the vehicle inspection programs by September 1997.

Enhance its statewide capability to manage permitting and compliance information electronically.

Develop Emission Inventory Improvement Program protocols and software with EPA assistance.

EPA will:

Provide training for DEC staff on AIRS databases.

Assist DEC in the development of the Emission Inventory Improvement Program.

Consult with DEC on proposed changes to AIRS database guidelines.

Assist in the design of electronic data transfer programs.

Notify DEC of adopted changes to database guidelines.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (DEC & EPA)

AIRS database updates submitted in accordance with EPA guidelines.

The Emission Inventory Improvement Program software transfer protocols completed.

OBJECTIVE: Improve program efficiency of the air quality program.

DEC will:

Reduce average permit processing time as compared to FY97 levels.

Reduce average inspection report preparation time as compared to FY97 levels.

Use general operating permits whenever possible.

Update regulations and SIPs as needed to maintain program effectiveness.

Simplify SIP, reducing unnecessary documents and language to improve readability and useability.

EPA will:

Work with DEC to streamline the State Implementation Plan.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (DEC & EPA)

Average inspection report preparation time.

Average permit processing time.

Number of general permits issued.

State Implementation Plan restructure completed and approved by EPA.

OBJECTIVE: Educate citizens regarding their role in achieving clean air.

DEC will:

Develop and implement public awareness programs which include: commuter inspection and maintenance program, ethanol program, PM10, and carbon monoxide.

Work with local communities to develop and implement their air quality education programs.

EPA will:

Provide educational materials and participate in outreach efforts as requested by state, local governments and the public as resources allow.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (DEC & EPA)

Number of public speaking engagements.

Maintain internet web page (number of hits).

Publish pollutant standards index in nonattainment or problem areas.

Present results of Public Awareness Survey.

OBJECTIVE: Continue to implement the asbestos program in Alaska.

EPA will:

Continue to develop and implement a National Emissions Standard Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) asbestos program in Alaska.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (EPA)

EPA will conduct at least 40 inspections during FY98.

2. Watersheds

The **Watershed Management Program** integrates water quality protection through permitting, water body recovery planning, and cooperation with local entities. DEC uses a watershed protection approach to make more efficient use of state resources and better manage, protect, and restore water quality in high-priority watersheds.

GOALS

DEC and EPA will use a Watershed Approach to aquatic resource protection in Alaska which fosters interagency partnership, cooperation, and coordination among state, local and federal agencies, public interest groups and industry.

The Water Quality Standards, as the cornerstone for watershed protection, will strive to be protective of all designated uses, and will be understandable, reasonable, and based on sound science.

COMPONENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE: Implement a water quality permit program that is based on sound technical and water quality principles, to protect public health and the environment and ensure jobs for Alaskans.

DEC and EPA will issue timely decisions on state and federal permits.

EPA will issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits in accordance with its three-year permit strategy plan (approximately nine permits per year).

DEC will make certification decisions on at least 90 percent of proposed final draft permits.

DEC will issue state permits and certify National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits requiring mixing zones or zones of deposits for those priority facilities identified jointly by EPA and DEC.

DEC will complete certification of 90 percent of section 404 permit applications for dredge and fill projects for compliance with state water quality requirements, focusing on those with significant watershed impact potential. EPA will conduct reviews of projects with significant watershed impact potential.

DEC and EPA will review and comment on all major federal forestry timber sale environmental assessments/impact statements.

DEC will review and comment on all state timber sales.

DEC will review and comment on at least 50 private timber sales.

DEC and EPA will inspect permitted major facilities (eg., mines, sewage treatment plants, seafood processors, oil and gas facilities) with NPDES or state permits to verify protection of public health and the environment.

DEC and EPA will jointly develop by July 1, 1997 a list of major facilities to be inspected, and will agree on which facilities will be inspected by: 1) DEC; 2) EPA; and 3) jointly by DEC and EPA.

EPA will inspect 50 placer mines throughout the state. DEC and EPA will jointly develop by July 1, 1997 a list of placer mining operations to be inspected, and will agree on which operations will be inspected by: (1) DEC; (2) EPA; and (3) jointly by DEC and EPA.

DEC will inspect 25 dredge and fill projects with Section 404 certifications.

DEC will inspect 60 logging operations and verify compliance with state and federal best management practices and provide technical assistance to 15 timber operators.

EPA will serve as the lead inspector to provide “on the job” training for DEC personnel who have completed the basic Inspector Training course.

EPA will conduct the following placer mining studies: a two-year metals study of the mechanical operators and a three-year suction dredge study.

EPA will, with assistance from DEC, conduct two tours of placer mines throughout the state. These tours will examine 95 percent of all placer mines. All mines observed to have a discharge to surface waters will be sampled for metals and other analytes. Approximately half of the mines without visible discharge will also be sampled. EPA will conduct a suction dredge study in accordance with the settlement agreement with American Rivers, et al.

DEC and EPA will provide engineering and scientific expertise and support such as modeling, waste treatment designs, calculations, chemistry, toxicology, risk assessments, and quality control to support permitting activities.

DEC will evaluate options for assumption of the NPDES program and reach a decision on pursuing all or parts of NPDES delegation to the state by January 1, 1998.

OBJECTIVE: Develop and implement regulations and guidelines for the water quality standards that are accepted by the public as protective of designated uses, understandable, reasonable, and scientifically defensible.

DEC will assist the public, the Alaska Legislature, industry, and permitting staff to understand the application and implementation of the state’s water quality standards.

DEC will provide technical assistance to approximately 500 annual requests for interpretation or information on the Water Quality Standards.

DEC will provide technical guidance documents to the public, industry and permittees on how the water quality standards are used to write permits and monitor the quality of Alaska’s waters, such as implementation procedures for antidegradation, mixing zones, and narrative criteria.

DEC will complete actions needed to implement removal of Alaska from the National Toxics Rule and adoption of the state arsenic standard.

DEC will update state water quality standards through the triennial review process, in accordance with requirements of the Clean Water Act.

DEC will establish a schedule and process for the Triennial Review, including public participation through issues workshops and public review periods.

DEC will implement recommendations selected by the Commissioner from the Governor-appointed Water Quality Work Group studies. The Water Quality Work Group was formed to assist the department in identifying priority water quality issues and working to resolve them.

DEC will develop a table in the water quality regulations by June 1998 that presents specific numeric criteria noted rather than adoption by reference of federal criteria documents.

In support of Alaska's Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) requirements, EPA will maintain at least the current level of effort in the Whole Effluent Toxicity laboratory performance audit program.

OBJECTIVE: Develop and implement statewide water quality programs to assess, protect, and restore water quality in watersheds.

DEC will implement the statewide non-point source (NPS) program to reduce pollutants to waters from urban development, forestry, agriculture, mining, and other sources.

DEC will finalize and initiate implementation of a revised Non-point Source Pollution Control Strategy which incorporates the nine key NPS program elements developed by the State/EPA NPS work group and Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) Section 6217 requirements. The revised strategy will be developed through a public process that recognizes geographic priorities.

The draft strategy will be available for public review as part of the Watersheds '97 Conference October 26-31, 1997.

The final strategy incorporating public input, including that received at Watersheds '97 Conference, will be completed by January 1, 1998.

EPA staff will take an active part in developing a strategy for all seven key source categories covered in the strategy.

DEC will work with the Governor's office, (Division of Governmental Coordination) and other state agencies to identify and initiate changes required to the coastal NPS program to conform to CZARA Management Measures Guidance.

DEC and EPA will participate in best management practices implementation and effectiveness monitoring for forest practices on federal lands through the Interagency Monitoring Group.

DEC and EPA will participate along with Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and interest groups in the design of best management practices implementation and monitoring programs for the State Forest Practices Act on state and private lands.

DEC, in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) will inspect logging roads and require remediation as needed to reduce stream water quality degradation from failing culverts and erosion.

DEC will work with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to develop a common protocol for monitoring logging roads across the state.

Ground water protection activities.

Development of wellhead and source water protection programs, as described in the Drinking Water Program section of this document, will be a high priority as major steps in developing a Comprehensive State Ground Water Protection Program.

DEC will seek to enhance partnerships with University of Alaska Cooperative Extension with respect to the development and implementation of the Home*A*Syst program promoting private wellhead protection, and other public education efforts; and with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with respect to the use of EQIP funds to address ground water priorities

Note: The Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has assumed primacy for the regulation of Class II injection wells, which are used to enhance oil recovery or disposal of produced water. The other four injection well classes are directly regulated by EPA. The Underground Injection Control (UIC) program, authorized by Part C of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, was devised to protect all underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) from contamination by injection wells. USDWs are defined in federal UIC regulation to include all fresh water aquifers unless specifically exempted from protection. Injection wells are defined broadly to include not only deep boreholes, but also a variety of shallow subsurface disposal systems.

DEC and EPA will continue to develop and implement the watershed protection approach in Alaska.

DEC and EPA will identify priority geographic areas for piloting the Watershed Protection Approach.

DEC will participate along with other agencies and citizens groups in development of the Kenai River Management Plan, will provide funding for local watershed projects, and will develop wetlands functional assessment methodology (HGM) for wetlands management on the Kenai Peninsula. DEC will develop a Kenai River Monitoring Plan.

DEC and EPA will collaborate in planning and implementation of the "Watersheds '97" conference scheduled for Anchorage October 26-31, 1997 that will be focused on the Cook Inlet Basin.

DEC and EPA, as part of the existing multi-agency/industry placer mining working group, will continue develop consensus on the next step to continue development of placer mining reclamation guidelines, and to obtain financial participation from other work group members.

DEC, in collaboration with other federal, state, and local agencies and citizens groups, will continue development of pilot watershed projects in the Ship Creek, Lower Chena River, and Mendenhall Valley watersheds.

DEC will participate in the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) as the lead resource agency for protection of water and environmental quality.

DEC will complete approximately 100 project reviews, 200 permit issuances, and 8 local coastal district plan revisions reviews as part of the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

Provide assistance in wetlands planning to local watershed communities.

DEC, in collaboration with EPA and other agencies, will develop guidebooks for doing wetlands functional assessments (hydrogeomorphic methodology - HGM) in the Interior, Kenai Peninsula, and Southeast Alaska. Guidebooks will be made available to local governments as a tool for wetlands management decisions.

DEC, in collaboration with EPA and other agencies will conduct training in development and use of wetlands functional assessment techniques (HGM).

OBJECTIVE: Promote watershed protection at the local level by providing planning, leadership assistance and financial support to local watershed activities.

EPA and DEC will improve grant coordination to assure that all available grant sources are identified and made available to support local watershed planning and activities.

EPA will work with DEC to identify federal funding sources not included in the PPA/PPG for geographic initiatives, environmental education, and other pertinent topics and to facilitate directing funds to priority watersheds.

EPA will work collaboratively with DEC through a process involving stakeholders to direct both PPA/PPG and other federal funding sources to local watershed projects.

DEC will improve grant administration and management to provide better tracking of project performance and costs.

DEC and EPA will, by July 31, 1997, develop a protocol for reporting on expenditures and progress of the work supported by EPA funds provided to the state through the PPG.

DEC will allocate administrative resources sufficient to operate a system to allocate, issue and control grant funds. Accomplishment of this task will be demonstrated by the adequacy of financial and progress reports.

EPA and DEC will, by October 15, 1997, jointly develop a plan to address technical project issues, specifically approval of data quality assurance project plans (QAPP) and data reporting requirements (enter into STORET and BIOS databases).

DEC will by July 31, 1997, establish a predictable grant funding cycle so prospective grant recipients will know when they will have the opportunity to submit requests for funding, and to assure that projecting funding is available well in advance of project needs.

DEC will award grants to support local watershed projects.

DEC will maintain, or increase as appropriate, the current level of support for local watershed projects, which is currently in the range of 10 to 12 grants per year.

DEC and EPA will conduct grant workshops in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau in conjunction with advertising the availability of grant funds each year.

DEC and EPA will utilize the public geographic priority setting process and criteria described in the "Draft Alaska Watershed Framework" document as a basis for project funding.

The following activities will be conducted in State Fiscal Year 1999, pending availability of funding:

EPA and DEC will promote watershed protection through public outreach and education.

EPA and DEC will develop a strategy by November 15, 1997 to improve delivery of public outreach and environmental education, and will begin implementation of the strategy.

DEC will assist EPA to implement the public outreach and environmental education strategy by state fiscal year 1999.

DEC and EPA will convene meetings of grantees and other stakeholders at least annually, to share project information, identify ways to leverage common resources, and improve communications.

EPA and DEC will deliver the Non-point Source (NPS) Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) program to at least two Alaska communities.

OBJECTIVE: Identify water quality degradation and design recovery plans that maintain water quality, in accordance with state requirements.

DEC will prepare a Section 303 (d) list that identifies waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards and require Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations.

DEC will develop a draft 303(d) list for public comment by October 1, 1997.

DEC will submit the final list and supporting documentation to EPA by April 1, 1998.

DEC will develop a draft schedule by May 1, 1998 in coordination with EPA, for the completion and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load allocations identified in the 1998 Section 303 (d) list. DEC will submit a final schedule to EPA by July 1, 1998.

DEC will develop and implement two Total Maximum Daily Load allocations (TMDLs) per year.

DEC will complete the Ship Creek Recovery Plan by June 30, 1998.

EPA will complete the Ship Creek TMDL by September 1, 1998.

DEC will complete the Duck Creek Management and Restoration Plan by June 30, 1998.

EPA will complete the Duck Creek TMDL by September 1, 1998.

DEC will complete the draft Hood/Spenard Recovery Plan by September 30, 1997.

The following activities will be conducted in State Fiscal Year 1999, pending availability of funding:

DEC will consolidate information about the monitoring efforts being conducted by all parties throughout the state (Alaska Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Program) and will maintain a database of all agencies' monitoring efforts.

DEC will continue to add new and existing water quality monitoring activities to the database.

DEC will prepare the 1998 Clean Water Act Section 305(b) report describing the condition of Alaska's waters.

DEC will collect data necessary and will update the biennial Water Quality Report to Congress by April 1, 1998.

DEC will monitor implementation of existing TMDLs and compliance with water quality standards.

DEC will review, monitor and/or inspect Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation on Lemon Creek, Vanderbilt Creek, Birch Creek, Garrison Slough, and Jewell Lake.

B. Environmental Health

The **DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH** works to protect and enhance the quality of life of all Alaskans and their visitors through safe water, food, facilities, and solid waste management, supported by professional laboratory and pesticide services.

One of the goals for all Environmental Health programs is to develop “plain English” information and improve efficiency. These objectives and performance measures are provided in this section and apply to all programs.

OBJECTIVE: Make information more understandable to the public.

Revise permit applications to “plain English” format.

Make all applications available via internet home page. This will increase public access to forms and information with the goal of increasing compliance.

Application packets to include goals and objectives for public/industry, application checklists, flow charts, and a list of all documents required to be submitted to the department and retained by the permittee.

Revise regulations to “plain English”.

Revise inspection checklists to match newly written regulations.

OBJECTIVE: Improve interactions with the public and regulated community.

Develop feedback form as a follow-up to inspections.

Issue 95 percent of permits within 60 days of receipt of application.

Develop checklists for facility plans that can be used by applicants and departmental staff for inspections.

OBJECTIVE: Improve efficiency.

Establish a risk-based facility inspection schedule.

Develop quarterly priority lists of all facilities to be inspected to ensure timely inspections and efficient use of staff time.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

New regulations in “plain English”, available on the DEC internet home page.

Inspection schedule structured to inspect more frequently facilities at higher risk to impact public health.

New inspection checklists available to public on what inspectors will be looking for.

Permits issued within 60 days of receipt.

1. Seafood

The **Seafood Processing and Development Program** works with industry to deliver safe and wholesome seafood products. Alaska is the source for over 50 percent of all seafood processed in the United States. Staff inspects nearly 900 land-based and floating process facilities, and over 30 certified shellfish growing and harvesting areas to ensure safe and wholesome seafood products for the public.

GOAL

To ensure the delivery of safe and wholesome seafood to the public.

OBJECTIVE: Increase industry compliance with safe seafood regulations and standards.

Develop Stop Order for facilities operating without a permit.

Simplify the shellfish harvesters application by combining both the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and DEC forms in one form.

OBJECTIVE: Inform the public and industry of seafood and shellfish safety techniques.

Develop shellfish fact sheet for the public.

Develop Seafood program internet home page. This will be increase access to seafood safety programs and other program information for industry and the public to utilize.

OBJECTIVE: Use funding more efficiently to better protect the public.

Improve seafood facility database to better track inspection history. Facilities with consistently high compliance will be inspected relatively less as compared to other processors.

Implement pilot project to allow shellfish growers to sample their growing area waters for the majority of the year.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Stop Orders issued to all facilities operating without a permit.

New shellfish fact sheet for the public.

New Seafood home page with updates on new regulations and seafood safety news.

Improved database, available to track inspection history.

Allowing shellfish growers to sample their growing area waters most of the year.

2. Solid Waste

The **Solid Waste Management Program** works to protect public health, property values, and the environment from the harmful effects of improper waste management. Improper waste disposal is the leading cause of water contamination. Staff work with municipalities and communities to assist them in complying with landfill requirements.

GOAL

To protect public health, property values, and the environment from the harmful effects of improper waste management.

OBJECTIVE: Increase individual, community, and industry compliance with solid waste regulations and standards.

Work with EPA on solid waste financial assurance to finalize federal approval of Alaska Solid Waste program. Approval provides full flexibility to approve alternative technologies for small and large sites, allowing the department to protect public health while managing for Alaska's unique environment.

Continue offering solid waste applications on the DEC internet home page.

Explore funding possibilities to create training video for operators of village landfills.

Ensure Manager of Landfill Operations training is offered in Alaska so that program and municipal staff can receive training in a cost effective manner.

Work with industry to come up with a solution to grease disposal in landfills. Currently, it is unlawful to dispose of cooking oil in landfills, leaving the public with few alternatives for disposal.

OBJECTIVE: To use funding more efficiently to better protect the public.

Refine solid waste database to track operating and closed solid waste sites.

Continue developing general permits for low risk disposal activities to reduce cost and time to permit those activities.

OBJECTIVE: Reduce the amount of solid waste. By reducing solid waste we can prevent the causes of contamination and any other public health threats that result from improperly managed solid waste.

Work with pollution prevention program to outline credible recycling, reduction, and reuse programs that would result in incentives for permittee, such as longer permit terms.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Revised regulations in “plain English” format, taking appropriate advantage of flexibility offered in federal Land Disposal Flexibility Act of 1996.

Obtain full EPA approval of the Alaska Solid Waste program.

Manager of Landfill Operation training offered in Alaska every three years.

New alternative for cooking oil disposal.

Improved database to allow tracking of new, old, and existing solid waste sites.

General permits continue to be developed and offered for low risk disposal activities.

Solid Waste facilities offering more opportunities for recycling, as a result of incentives offered by DEC.

3. Drinking Water

The **Drinking Water Program** works to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water throughout the state. Alaska’s unique geography, and the high number of small public water systems provides challenges to the routine implementation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Staff work with public water systems to provide safe drinking water for the health and safety of the public while addressing unique Alaska conditions.

GOAL

Safe drinking water for all Alaskans and visitors.

OBJECTIVE: Maintain State primacy of the Safe Drinking Water Program. By maintaining primacy, Alaska can provide common sense, flexible, hands-on assistance to public water systems to improve their drinking water supplies to protect public health. (*Activities related to primacy are noted with an *.*)

OBJECTIVE: Increase Public Water Systems compliance with safe drinking water regulations.

*Increase interactions with public water systems, giving higher priority to those systems that show history of noncompliance and want to work with the Department. DEC actions will include as applicable: compliance and enforcement; technical assistance; monitoring waivers; alternative technology approvals; and other actions as needed.

*Ensure sanitary surveys are conducted to confirm that Alaska’s public drinking water systems are designed, operated, and maintained to provide safe drinking water, with priority given to systems that are not in compliance with drinking water regulations. DEC staff will issue compliance and/or enforcement actions when necessary. DEC will provide appropriate training or other actions as needed to provide the public with safe drinking water.

Draft regulations in plain English. Application packets should include goals and objectives for public/industry, application checklists, flow charts, and a list of all documents required to be submitted to the department and retained by the permittee.

*Coordinate with EPA on enforcement of Significant Non-Compliers, and provide monthly or quarterly compliance reports, inventory updates, and mutually agreed-upon periodic status meetings and other reports as required by 40 CFR 142.15.

Work with EPA to reconcile AREV and SDWIS database to provide accurate and comprehensive pictures of all drinking water system (DWS) violations. Explore possibility of providing EPA's office in Seattle access to DEC drinking water database.

*Maintain an appropriate laboratory certification program. DEC's laboratory will continue to develop testing capabilities for regulated groundwater contaminants.

*Maintain ability to respond to emergencies that affect a community's access to safe drinking water.

*Continue to seek statutory authority for administrative penalties

EPA will work in partnership with the EPA to develop EPA's Capacity Development Strategy guidances. The Capacity Development Strategy is a new state activity which examines the ability of water systems to comply with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, including financial, managerial, and technical ability of the systems. It will enable the state to comprehensively examine a system for its revolving fund eligibility and the ability to provide safe drinking water.

Develop State's Capacity Development Strategy in accordance with EPA guidances.

Continue to provide standards for Class C drinking water systems, conduct plan reviews for higher risk Class C drinking water systems, and track completed sanitary surveys for those higher risk systems.

OBJECTIVE: Protect groundwater and surface water from biological and chemical contamination.

In partnership with the public and the EPA, begin developing an approved State Wellhead Protection Program, which will provide a guidance to local communities on strategies to protect their source of drinking water. Public participation will play a critical role in the development and implementation of this program. It is expected that the state will take two years to develop an EPA approved statewide Wellhead Protection Program.

Develop and implement an outreach plan that offers education, training, and technical support to assist the public in developing local Wellhead Protection Programs. The outreach plan will be outlined in the State Wellhead Protection Program and may include workshops, newsletters, media releases, local meetings and presentations, and other methods of direct contact.

In partnership with the public and the EPA, develop the Source Water Delineation and Assessment Program within the next two years, based on established guidances. Developing this program will enable Alaska to consider the cumulative impacts of contaminants and associated activities on watersheds which people depend on for drinking water sources.

DEC can develop the interagency coordination needed to make both the Wellhead Protection Program and Source Water Assessment and Protection Program successful in protecting drinking water sources. These partnerships will establish the network necessary to develop a groundwater protection plan.

OBJECTIVE: Provide training and education opportunities for drinking water system operators and planners. Protecting safe drinking water sources is more cost effective than cleaning up or treating contaminated water sources. By providing training and education on the local level to community leaders, students, and professionals, knowledge and commitment to safe drinking water is increased.

Work in partnership with staff from the Division of Facility Construction and Operation's to improve existing training programs in order to increase safe drinking water knowledge at the local level; including the public and water system operators.

OBJECTIVE: Increase public awareness of the importance of safe drinking water, how it can become degraded or contaminated, and what can be done to protect it.

Develop plain English safe drinking water fact sheets.

Provide safe drinking water information and fact sheets on Internet home page.

Work with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to jointly advise communities on the nature and risk of specific water contaminants for which no regulatory safe exposure level has been set by the EPA.

*Improve existing Safe Drinking Water database. Improvement is needed in providing for "real time" statewide access for the public. Database currently provides information on violations, inventory updates (systems and sources), and monitoring information about drinking water systems statewide.

*Maintain a complete public record of the State's decisions.

OBJECTIVE: Provide affordable and applicable technology alternatives to communities.

Provide biannual workshops or more if requested for public and private engineers on new alternative technologies.

Streamline alternative technology approvals by using appropriate National Sanitary Foundation (NSF) protocols or by developing standard Alaska-condition testing protocols.

Continue designing custom monitoring packages for public drinking water systems. This will enable facilities that have obtained the appropriate waivers to forego monitoring for contaminants that pose little or no risk to their systems and concentrate on contaminants, problems, and concerns that pose high risks.

OBJECTIVE: Ensure public drinking water systems are designed and constructed to provide for safe water.

*Maintain engineering plan review process to assure that new and existing public water systems are designed and upgraded to provide safe drinking water.

Provide annual workshops and/or more as needed or requested for public and private engineers on new regulations, new technology, and new techniques that improve system design.

Encourage participation of Alaska's private engineers in the development and implementation of state and local Wellhead Protection and Source Water Assessment programs.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Increased number of drinking water systems in compliance with safe drinking water regulations. Sanitary surveys and any necessary follow-up actions will result in the safe delivery of drinking water.

Submit monthly or quarterly compliance reports and inventory updates as requested by EPA.

Continue maintenance of an adequate laboratory certification program.

An EPA approved Wellhead Protection program that effectively supports local Wellhead Protection Programs.

A Sourcewater Assessment program developed and implemented, with ongoing work prioritized to complete contaminant inventories, assessments, and delineations.

Development of the state's Capacity Development Strategy by June 30, 1999.

Safe drinking water fact sheets, in "plain English" format, available to the public and distributed to targeted populations.

Implement a joint project with Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services advising communities on the nature and risk of water contaminants for which no regulated safe exposure limit has been set.

Continue compilation of public records on state's drinking water program.

Annual workshops held for public and private engineers on alternative technology.

Standard testing protocols for alternative technology, shortening the approval process for small public water systems.

Increased numbers of small public water systems using custom monitoring packages.

Improvement in water system design from continued engineered plan reviews.

Annual workshops held for public and private engineers on new regulations, new technology, and new techniques to improve system design.

Increased participation of professional organizations, engineering consulting firms, and private engineers in the development and implementation of state and local Wellhead Protection and Source Water Assessment programs.

Reconciliation between AREV and SDWIS on significant non-compliers.

Ensure proper classification of drinking water systems.

Identify higher risk Class C water systems.

EPA Commitments

Enforcement coordination with DEC through mutually agreed upon status meetings.

Enforcement meetings will consist of the following participants: the DEC Drinking Water Program Manager and the Seattle EPA Drinking Water Program Manager. The focus of the meetings will be to discuss and agree on appropriate compliance and enforcement strategies.

Prior to the meeting EPA will provide DEC with a list of questions, comments, and areas of discussion based upon DEC's monthly or quarterly compliance reports before the meeting that allows adequate time for DEC to research to provide meaningful answers or feedback.

EPA will work with DEC to reconcile SDWIS and AREV differences to provide an accurate list of public water systems with a history of significant noncompliance and the reasons for noncompliance.

EPA will assist DEC in enforcement actions when requested.

Participate with the state in developing Capacity Development Strategy guidances.

Participate with the state in developing operator certification guidances.

Participate with the state in developing the Public Water System public notification consumer awareness guide, and assist with determining health affects and risk communication.

Assist the state with legislative authority for administrative penalties by ascertaining when this authority will be required.

4. Animal Industries

The **Animal Industries Program** ensures that slaughterhouses, meat processors, and dairy producers deliver safe and wholesome meat, poultry, and dairy products for the public. Alaska is home to a several-million-dollar meat and dairy industry. Staff not only inspect these processors, but work with the industry to prevent the introduction or spread of disease in Alaska's domestic and wild animal stocks.

GOALS

To ensure safe and wholesome meat, poultry, and milk products to the public.

To ensure disease-free domestic animal stocks and to prevent the spread of disease among wild and domestic animal stocks.

OBJECTIVE: Education and training for those producing meat, poultry, and milk products for the public.

Develop Direct Meat Marketing brochure for meat and poultry producers outlining what type of slaughter is appropriate, what permits they will need, and the importance of proper labeling.

Develop fact sheet for Alaska's commercial reindeer slaughterhouse.

OBJECTIVE: Increase industry compliance with safe food regulations and standards.

Work with meat and poultry producers on new federal Meat and Poultry inspection program implementation, including requirements for Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Plans and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures. Revise state regulations to incorporate these federal changes.

Continue to respond to FDA and US Department of Agriculture recalls of contaminated meat products distributed in Alaska.

Work with new meat plants to become inspected facilities; e.g. Delta slaughterhouse, Sam's Club (Fairbanks and Anchorage) and Costco.

Initiate a carcass microbiological monitoring program at full-time slaughter facilities to reduce pathogens.

OBJECTIVE: To use funding more efficiently to better protect the public.

Institute a plan for slaughter plants to become responsible for generic E. Coli testing and implementing a Standard Operating Procedure Program.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A Direct Meat Marketing brochure distributed to all meat suppliers in Alaska. This distribution effort is intended to increase our compliance rate and ensure meat quality.

New fact sheet for commercial reindeer slaughterhouse.

Four new approved and operational meat plants; e.g. Delta, Sam's Club (Fairbanks and Anchorage), and Costco.

Implementation of new federal Meat and Poultry Inspection program, including HACCP regulations.
Revised state regulations.

Implementation of carcass microbiological monitoring program to reduce pathogens.

Slaughterhouses have Standard Operating Procedure programs and slaughterhouses routinely test carcasses for E. Coli.

5. Environmental Sanitation and Food Safety (ESFS)

The **Environmental Sanitation and Food Safety Program** works to ensure the safety of Alaskans and their visitors at all food processing and service facilities, schools, day care, residential, and adult care facilities, pools, spas, and public accommodations. By conducting over 3,000 inspections last year, staff worked with businesses to provide safe food and a clean environment for the public, especially for children and elderly adults.

GOALS

To ensure the delivery of safe and wholesome food to the public.

To ensure the safety of children, the elderly, and the public through sanitary facilities.

OBJECTIVE: Increase food safety awareness among the public and industry.

Continue developing Food Safety Awareness Month, each April which includes training for food servers and management certification, and general education.

Continue developing Management Certification Program for employees of food service establishments.

Provide "plain English" brochures for the public and industry on safe food handling.

Provide food safety news/techniques on the Internet and through public service announcements.

OBJECTIVE: Increase industry compliance with safe food and sanitation regulations and standards.

Develop Stop Order for facilities operating without a permit. This will assist us in formally notifying a business, facility, or individual that they are operating without a permit and will help protect the public from potentially unsafe operators.

Develop facility recognition program to increase pride in cleanliness/recognition with public. Inspection stickers given to all inspected facilities to be displayed at establishment, recognition stickers to facilities that participate in Food Safety Awareness Month and participate in the Management Certification program.

Put facility inspection scores on the internet.

Complete comprehensive database of 6,372 public facilities inspected by ESFS.

Establish "Overnight Accommodations" work group. By establishing this work group, Environmental Health will increase interaction with regulated community needed to establish positive working relationship. Subjects to be covered by group include redrafting overnight accommodations regulations, education and training opportunities, and facility recognition program.

OBJECTIVE: Improve interactions with the public and regulated community.

Establish Food Advisory Committee with industry and public as a voluntary forum to work together to address emerging food problems.

Enhance the safe development of Alaska's wild mushroom industry by working with the Cooperative Extension Program and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to provide a mushroom identification course.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Annual food safety awareness month with new and returning participants.

Increased enrollment in Management Certification Program.

New brochures available for general public and food servers on safe food handling techniques.

Public service announcements with food safety tips for general public.

Continue providing topical food safety information, permit applications, and facility inspection scores on the internet home page.

Stop Orders issued to facilities operating without permits.

Establishment and implementation of a Facility Recognition Program.

Comprehensive database tracking facility inspection history.

New draft overnight accommodation regulations developed with industry's involvement.

Establishment of Food Advisory Committee.

Mushroom identification course offered through Cooperative Extension/University of Alaska Fairbanks.

6. Laboratory Services and Pesticides

The **Laboratory Services program** provides essential support to the other programs in the Division. The lab analyzes food samples to determine they are safe for the consuming public. In addition, they certify commercial labs to do microbiological and chemical testing for public drinking water systems and testing for underground storage tank/leaking underground storage tanks programs.

GOAL

To provide professional laboratory services to support the Department's programmatic work.

To certify commercial labs to do drinking water analysis, and underground storage tank/leaking underground storage tank analysis.

OBJECTIVE: Increase industry compliance with statutory/regulatory requirements to 95 percent.

Maintain testing of shellfish and seafood products for heavy metals, chemical testing of meat and seafood products and antibiotic residue screening for dairy products.

Maintain Food Safety Laboratory certifications for the testing of dairy products, shellfish growing waters and shellfish meats, paralytic shellfish poison bioassay, brucellosis testing, and equine infectious anemia testing, and State Chemistry Lab and Food Safety Lab certifications for drinking water.

Develop laboratory testing program for raw meat and poultry samples for E.Coli, Salmonella, and Listeria to meet new federal Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point industry regulations.

Continue testing of ready-to-eat and Native-style products for seafood program.

Continue certifying and accrediting commercial labs to do drinking water microbial and chemical testing, and underground/leaking underground storage tank testing.

Expand chemistry laboratory capabilities to test for organic disinfection byproducts as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The **Pesticides Program** assures that all pesticides used and sold in Alaska are in compliance with state and federal regulations through education, monitoring, and enforcement activities. Proper use of pesticides provide benefits to many Alaska industries. However, pesticides are intended to kill living organisms, therefore ensuring proper use is critical.

GOAL

To protect public health and our natural resources by ensuring the safe use of pesticides.

OBJECTIVE: To increase industry and individual compliance with regulations to ensure the safe usage of pesticides.

Continue creating state pesticide registration database. This database will help track all pesticides.

Increase interaction with nurseries and farms on Worker Protection Standards (WPS). Conduct courtesy visits and follow-up inspections of plant nurseries and agricultural farms for regulatory compliance. DEC will issue enforcement actions for WPS violations during inspection and will refer any labeling violations to the EPA.

Increase inspections of medical supply retail businesses to target unregistered antimicrobials, such as hospital and veterinary disinfectants. Issue enforcement actions when appropriate.

Continue inspections of pesticide marketplace businesses (retail, wholesale, and distribution) for regulatory violations, such as proper registration status, storage, child-resistant packaging, labeling, leaking and damaged containers, and collecting official samples.

Continue inspections of certified applicators. Inspectors will look for regulatory violations such as: determining if applicator is properly certified and licensed; maintaining proper records; making pesticide applications only for the uses in which the applicator is certified; and keeping appropriate records to reflect that applications are done in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Continue inspections of restricted use pesticide dealers for regulatory violations. Inspectors will look for proper certification, appropriate record keeping, and that documentation that restricted-use pesticides are sold only to certified applicators and other authorized persons.

All inspections and enforcement actions will continue to be reported to EPA quarterly.

Work in partnership with EPA on the state's Quality Assurance Project Plan, ensuring sample integrity for the reliable collection of data.

OBJECTIVE: Increase public knowledge of beneficial and harmful aspects of pesticides and their proper use.

Develop pesticides fact sheet for pesticide users and the general public.

Provide education for pesticide users and the general public on the hazards of improper usage of pesticides, including how to protect the groundwater sources from pesticide contamination.

After EPA regulations are final, begin development of Generic State Management Plan.

Actively pursue public complaints on the misuse of pesticides, and rank as a top priority for inspection. Pursue appropriate enforcement of misuse.

Continue to update a communication/outreach program on Worker Protection Standards with the regulated community and pesticide workers, including workshops, training, news stories, and direct contact.

Provide certification, recertification, and training for pesticide workers in partnership with Alaska Cooperative Extension Service. This includes working closely with the Cooperative Extension Service to update and address examination and training materials to reflect changes in state and federal laws. Certification and training projections and accomplishments will continue to be reported to EPA annually.

Improve training packets for certification of pesticide applicators, updating to keep current with new state and federal laws and regulations.

OBJECTIVE: Protect natural resources from pesticide contamination.

Participate in wellhead/groundwater working groups with drinking water staff and staff from other state agencies.

Develop partnership with state and federal agencies regarding Alaska's endangered and threatened species. This includes the agencies' participation to develop information on habitat ranges, to identify pesticide threats to these species, technical assistance such as proper pesticide application, to monitor the use of pesticides in state and federal predator control programs, and to provide information on pesticides programs.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Laboratory Services

Current testing programs maintained (shellfish, seafood, and laboratory certifications).

Testing program established to meet federal HACCP regulations for raw meat and poultry samples.

Continue certifying and accrediting commercial labs to do drinking water microbial and chemical testing, and underground/leaking underground storage tank testing.

Chemistry laboratory capable of testing for organic disinfection by-products.

Pesticide Program

New pesticide registration database to track pesticides used and sold into Alaska.

A reduction of Worker Protection Standard violations due to inspections and follow-up visits of nurseries and greenhouses.

A reduction of unregistered antimicrobials in Alaska as a result of inspections and follow-up visits of medical retail suppliers.

Marketplace inspections will identify and reduce pesticide violations. Stop Sale notices will be issued and ultimately reduce these pesticides from being sold in Alaska's marketplace.

Increased compliance of certified pesticide applicators and pesticide dealers.

Increased compliance of pesticide dealers.

A state Quality Assurance Project Plan, which ensures sample integrity for the reliable collection of data.

Increase contact with pesticide users and public on the hazards of improper pesticide use including how to protect groundwater sources from contamination.

Quick response to all public pesticide complaints.

Increased contact with pesticide workers and regulated community on Worker Protection Standards.

Regular DEC/Alaska Cooperative Extension Service training sessions held for certification, recertification, and training of pesticide applicators.

New training packets available and distributed for certifying pesticide applicators. Packets will be current with new state and federal laws and regulations.

EPA Commitments:

Provide enforcement for pesticide labeling violations.

Provide up-to-date information materials on federal Worker Protection Standards. (DEC may modify the materials to meet local conditions.)

Work with DEC to monitor experimental use permits in conjunction with investigations into new pesticide uses.

Provide annual legal and technical training to DEC staff involved in enforcing pesticide regulations.

Provide additional technical assistance and information as needed.

Provide for and assist in the latest pesticides recall or cancellation information.

EPA Toxic Substances Programs

EPA's Toxics Substances Programs encompass compliance, enforcement and programmatic activities under the Toxics Substances Control Act (TSCA), Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) Section 313.

Additional information about these programs is available on EPA Region 10's Waste and Chemicals Management's website at <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/offices/owcm/owcm.htm>.

GOAL:

Protect health and the environment by:

- promoting reduced use of toxic chemicals,
- safe chemical management and waste practices, and
- compliance with the Acts and associated regulations.

This goal is accomplished primarily through a combination of diverse partnerships, enforcement, direct program delivery, innovative strategies, outreach and education.

OBJECTIVE: Reduce the risks of PCBs exposure by:

- **Ensuring the integrity of disposal and commercial storage facilities;**
- **Increasing compliance at priority facilities;**
- **Reducing actual risk and public perception of risk from PCBs;**
- **Conducting industry outreach, especially to those in priority targeted areas.**

Conduct inspections of PCB facilities including Alaska Native Villages.

Provide technical assistance and outreach to the Native Villages on toxic substances.

Distribute outreach letters to the mining sector during summer of 1997 which will include a summary of the PCB regulations, the complete PCB Regulation (40 CFR Part 761), and PCB Question & Answer (Q&A) Manuals.

OBJECTIVE: Prevent and reduce risks resulting from exposure to toxic substances through changes in industry and public behaviors in the manufacture, process, use, distribution, and import and export of commercial chemicals.

Increase compliance with TSCA regulations through an appropriate use of enforcement.

Conduct a number of core-TSCA inspections in Alaska.

Focus EPA risk reduction efforts on importers, in coordination with U.S. Customs personnel and Import Broker Associations, to facilitate compliance with environmental import/export laws and regulations pertaining to commercial chemicals.

OBJECTIVE: Reduce exposure to asbestos hazards by bringing schools, public and commercial buildings, and training providers into compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Reauthorization Act requirements.

Provide funding and assistance to the AK Department of Labor to take necessary actions (statutory and regulatory changes) to obtain EPA approval for the supervisor/contractor discipline under the AHERA training and accreditation program.

Conduct inspections at schools, training audits of AHERA training course providers, follow-up enforcement activities and compliance assistance.

OBJECTIVE: Provide the public with important information about the quantity of toxic chemicals manufactured, processed, or otherwise used, or released annually from facilities into the environment of surrounding communities.

Focus outreach efforts on the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), under Section 313 of the Emergency, Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) to federal and private facilities to assist their understanding of the EPCRA §313 reporting requirements.

Increase industry training efforts during 1997 and 1998 for seven new industry sectors and for the current reporters regarding the new changes in reporting requirements.

To the extent resources allow, conduct training emphasizing the new mining, bulk petroleum stations, and RCRA Subtitle C TSD sectors.

Continue to conduct inspections at both private and federal facilities to ensure reporting and data quality.

OBJECTIVES: Reduce the incidence of blood lead (Pb) levels above 10 micrograms per deciliter in children, reduce unacceptable Pb exposures to children and the general public, and prevent Pb contamination in the environment.

Provide assistance to the state as it develops lead legislation and programs and work with other EPA programs and state/local agencies on a regional exposure assessment and collection of blood Pb data to better understand the extent of the Pb problem and nature of its risk.

Manage the four TSCA Title IV grants awarded in Alaska (total funding of \$579,000). (The purpose of these grants is to develop and implement authorized programs for accrediting trainers and certifying contractors engaged in lead-based paint activities.)

If Alaska is not operating a lead program by August 31, 1998, EPA will implement and enforce the program in Alaska.

C. Facility Construction and Operation

The **DIVISION OF FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION** promotes public health and environmental protection by providing financial and technical assistance to local governments for construction and operation of water, sewerage, and solid waste projects. The division provides support to the Governor's Council on Rural Sanitation.

1. Municipal Grants and Loans Program

The **Municipal Grants and Loans Program** provides water, sewerage, and solid waste facilities to urban residents. In urban areas, the Municipal Matching Grants Program funds 50 to 85 percent of the costs for water, wastewater, and solid waste improvements. This program also administers federal funds for construction of wastewater facilities. The Alaska Clean Water Fund offers communities low-interest loans for planning, design, and construction costs associated with wastewater, non-point source and solid waste management projects. This program will soon administer a parallel program for drinking water projects.

GOALS

Protect public health and improve sanitation conditions.

Ensure that the useful life of sanitation facilities is maximized by ensuring that communities have the operational and managerial capacity to properly operate, maintain and manage their sanitation facilities.

OBJECTIVE: Work cooperatively with federal agencies to optimize joint project funding.

Increase use of state revolving loan fund program for wastewater and non-point source pollution abatement projects.

Continue transition from federal grant program to state loan fund program.

Operate loan programs in compliance with all federal and state requirements.

Implement the state drinking water revolving loan fund program.

Maintain the use of federal funding in municipal grant projects using state and federal grant and loan funds.

Maximize federal and state funding ratios in funding projects from the Clean Water and Drinking Water revolving loan programs. Funds are to be drawn from federal and state funding sources in the proper proportional amounts.

OBJECTIVE: Provide safe water and environmentally sound wastewater and solid waste management in urban communities.

Prepare urban sanitation needs priority list using data collected from the communities and field staff input.

Prepare capital projects budget.

Construct projects and make final payments to communities based on audit recommendations..

OBJECTIVE: Assist communities in meeting the requirements of the federal Stormwater and Surface Water Treatment rules and new solid waste management regulations.

Provide technical assistance to assist communities in meeting pertinent new federal water and wastewater regulations.

Identify appropriate technologies for communities to address new federal regulatory requirements.

Provide assistance to communities in securing the funding needed to be in compliance.

Municipal Grant and Loan Performance Measures (annually)

Initiate at least six projects using state revolving loan funds.

Assist in audit resolutions.

Prepare federal grant agreement and annual reports for both the federal EPA and state legislature.

Maximize use of construction money through federal participation in the state matching grants program by making grants for at least ten projects combining state and federal grant and loan funds.

Prepare the priority list for the capital budget request.

Complete construction, audit, and make final payments for at least fourteen state-funded projects.

Make grants and initiate construction for at least two projects required by the Storm water or Surface Water Treatment rules and two solid waste projects.

2. Village Safe Water

The **Village Safe Water Program** provides water, sewerage, and solid waste facilities to rural residents. These grants fund sanitation facilities including piped utilities, haul systems, a safe water source at a central location, a place to dispose of honey bucket wastes, and in some cases, laundry, sauna and shower facilities. This program also develops proposals and secures federal funding for planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment facilities in Alaska villages.

Objective: Improve public health and compliance with environmental regulations in rural communities by upgrading the level of sanitation facilities through planning and financial and technical assistance.

Develop annual project priority list based on information collected from questionnaires submitted by the villages and a priority ranking system.

Provide technical and financial assistance for planning, design and construction of sanitation facilities in rural communities.

Optimize joint funding of sanitation projects by coordinating with schools, Alaska Department of Transportation, the Indian Health Service, and state and federal housing authorities.

Serve as the communities “ project engineer” to manage construction projects from the start of the planning process through the completion of the construction project.

Village Safe Water Performance Measures (annually)

Prepare annual capital project priority list for rural community sanitation needs for inclusion in the capital budget.

Complete 24 feasibility studies.

Design and construct 45 projects.

Design and construct five projects to demonstrate new technologies.

Participate in 63 jointly funded sanitation projects.

Initiate community waiver requests in at least five communities.

Assist at least two communities without grant funding.

Hold four workshops for community administrators to explain the Village Safe Water capital construction project funding mechanism and grant application process.

Provide new water and wastewater service to 500 households where residents previously hauled water or utilized honey buckets.

Provide improved water, wastewater and/or solid waste systems to 550 households.

Complete data gathering effort to identify unmet sanitation needs by households within communities.

3. Rural Sanitation Initiative

The Rural Sanitation Initiative, a multi-agency effort to improve rural health conditions coordinated by the Facility Construction & Operation Division, continues to be an issue of major importance to the state

and its rural citizens. Inadequate sewage disposal and unsafe water supplies represent the state's greatest environmental health concern. The Alaska Sanitation Task Force has been working with a coalition of federal and state agencies and Native groups to coordinate program funding, procedures, priorities and objectives aimed at improving village water and sewer systems.

Objective: Eliminate the honey bucket and provide safe sources of drinking water in rural Alaska by the year 2005.

Create an action plan with reasonable milestones to correct sanitation deficiencies in rural Alaska using multi-disciplinary and multi-agency expertise.

Maximize resources available for rural sanitation capital projects by clearly communicating rural Alaska's substantial sanitation needs to federal funding agencies.

Seek flexibility in federal grant/loan requirements in recognition of rural Alaska's unique needs and capabilities.

Increase understanding and involvement by rural residents of the sanitation facility technology appropriate for their area through public meetings, council meetings, informational brochures, and feasibility studies prior to construction.

Increase awareness of the linkage between proper sanitation and improved public health.

Rural Sanitation Initiative Performance Measures

Coordinate quarterly meetings of the Governor's Council on Rural Sanitation.

Submit annual report to Governor by October 15, 1997 detailing Governor's Council on Rural Sanitation recommendations.

Prepare draft action plan addressing the sanitation deficiencies in rural Alaska to the Governor by July 1997; complete final action plan by October 15, 1998.

Develop and distribute an informational brochure designed to increase community capacity by increasing local understanding of state and federal sanitation programs and the role of local governments and residents.

Develop and coordinate a rural health/sanitation curriculum and poster/essay contest for schools to increase awareness among school-aged children of the linkage between sanitation conditions and public health.

4. Operations Assistance Unit

The **Operations Assistance Unit** provides essential training of water and wastewater system operators to help protect the state's and communities' investment in sanitation facilities. The Unit administers the Operator Training and Certification program, the Remote Maintenance Worker program and the "over-the-shoulder" wastewater operator training program all of which improve the operation and maintenance of utility systems throughout the state.

Objective: Administer program to certify water and wastewater operators

Establish proctor sites, examine operators and provide exam results.

Review applications for examination and determine eligibility.

Administer special operator-in-training courses and exams.

Issue new certificates, track continuing education unit records and renew active certificates.

Review operator concerns and grievances.

Review, develop and update certification exam questions.

Administer fee system.

Publish and distribute statewide directory of certified operators and training newsletter.

Classify and update classifications of water and wastewater systems and track compliance.

OBJECTIVE: Administer the Remote Maintenance Worker program and the federal 104(g)(1) grant to provide "over-the-shoulder" technical assistance to utility operators and utility managers.

Solicit applications, select grantees or contractors and develop grant or contract conditions and offer letters to provide Remote Maintenance Worker service to a specific geographical region.

Provide field supervision, technical assistance and training to the individuals serving as Remote Maintenance Workers.

Provide training and technical assistance to rural operators.

Assist the Remote Maintenance Workers and rural operators in developing preventive maintenance plans.

Review Remote Maintenance Worker trip reports, quarterly and annual reports and distribute to regional legislators.

Coordinate Remote Maintenance Worker and Remote Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) activities with the Department of Community & Regional Affairs and the Public Health Service.

Write annual program report to the Legislature and distribute to legislators and other interested members of the public.

Prepare federal 104 grant application and provide quarterly progress reports and annual report to the Region 10 EPA project officer.

Work to gain recognition of outstanding wastewater treatment plants by promoting EPA's Operation & Maintenance Excellence Awards program where appropriate.

OBJECTIVE: Administer a training program to meet Alaska's utility operators training needs.

Work cooperatively with the Federal Public Health Service and the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs through a Memoranda of Understanding to coordinate rural operator training.

Plan, schedule and coordinate statewide training coalition activities and publish and distribute a training calendar.

Administer Operator Lending Library, distribute materials, select and purchase new material.

Evaluate private sector training courses and seminars for suitability and Continuing Education Unit assignment.

Develop or assist in developing utility management training material and training courses.

Provide technical assistance and training to other department staff.

Provide phone assistance to general public and operators regarding certification program operators.

Promote self-sufficiency of rural operators by improving access to training opportunities and technical assistance.

Develop incentives which encourage rural operators and utility managers to seek needed training.

Operation Assistance Unit Performance Measures (annually)

Establish at least 60 proctor sites in rural and urban areas for over 400 examinees.

Issue at least 200 new certifications and track records for over 1,000 operators holding over 1,900 certificates.

Review over 500 applications for certification examinations.

Coordinate at least four special operator-in-training courses and exams.

Coordinate at least two Water and Wastewater Advisory Board meetings to review operator complaints and hear grievances.

Maintain a computer database containing at least 2,000 questions and review new questions for inclusion.

Publish and distribute directory of certified operators and training newsletter to over 1,000 individual, communities and organizations.

Update the classifications for at least ten systems.

Develop individual grant conditions and requirements for six separate Remote Maintenance Worker grants.

Evaluate 32 quarterly program progress reports and financial reports.

Travel with each Remote Maintenance Worker to evaluate their capabilities and reactions to specific situations, at least twelve cooperative trips.

Assist the Remote Maintenance Worker's and rural operators with the development of at least ten preventive maintenance plans.

Review over 100 Remote Maintenance Worker trip reports and distribute to appropriate regional legislators.

Complete annual Remote Maintenance Worker report to the legislature by January 15.

Prepare one federal grant application for federal 104 funding.

Prepare quarterly progress reports and one final annual report for EPA Region 10 according to the schedule in the final grant.

Serve on the Region 10 Operations and Maintenance Awards Committee; evaluate and score Region 10 states submittals each April/May.

Participate in at least two meetings per year with Public Health Service and the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs to coordinate regional training activities.

Publish and distribute Alaska Training Coalition training calendar two times per year to over 1,500 recipients.

Coordinate the annual meeting of the Alaska Training Coalition.

Evaluate at least ten new training courses for Continuing Education Unit assignment each year and at least ten courses in new locations.

Participate in at least two meetings of the coordinating committee for Utility Management training materials.

EPA Commitments

Continued involvement on the Governor's Council on Rural Sanitation.

Work to develop audit requirements that are timely and consistent with those of other federal funding agencies.

Consistent directives from EPA headquarters through Region 10 EPA to the Alaska Operations Offices.

Maintain positive cooperative working relationship in administering the EPA infrastructure grant funding.

Prompt disbursement of federal construction grant funds on a quarterly basis.

Update the Indian Set-Aside Procedures Manual to reflect the current infrastructure program.

Adopt a flexible interpretation of the definition of secondary treatment of wastewater as it applies to non-Native communities on or near coastal areas.

Clarify the issue regarding the purchase of heavy equipment using federal grant funds.

Establish an internal communication mechanism between the Alaska Operations Office and EPA Headquarters to disseminate information on Alaska's construction project progress using the State's quarterly reports rather than multiple, random requests for information from a variety of individuals.

Provide timely and consistent assistance to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan programs. Program guidance will conform with the intent of federal law and allow, to the fullest extent consistent with federal law, maximum state management control with minimal federal oversight.

Review and respond to loan program grant applications and other required program submittals within 30 days.

Assist with the establishment of the Clean Water Online system and provide the necessary guidance and training.

Provide updates regarding potential requirements involving federal operator certification program.

D. Statewide Public Service

The **STATEWIDE PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISION** (SPS) helps Alaskans meet standards designed to protect human health and environmental resources. The division provides a focal point for the public, local governments and businesses to fully access the department's services. **Public Service Offices** across Alaska have experienced staff who provide "one-stop shopping" for many kinds of assistance and questions. DEC engineers provide guidance on design, installation and maintenance of water, wastewater and other environmental facilities. Applications are reviewed for new or corrected systems to ensure that standards are met to protect human health. Offices are located in Ketchikan, Juneau, Valdez, Anchorage, Kenai, Kodiak, Unalaska, Bethel, Wasilla, Fairbanks, Nome, and North Slope (Deadhorse).

1. Compliance Assistance

SPS staff, with the **Compliance Assistance Office and Rural Issues**, can also provide "enforcement-free" consultative services to help Alaska businesses and communities comply with federal and state environmental regulations. These offices offer technical support to help businesses and communities reduce operating costs by eliminating wastes, conserving raw materials, and preventing pollution. Other services offered include: air quality permit assistance for small business, complaint resolution, rural community and new projects environmental management assistance, and voluntary pollution prevention programs. ([RCRA] indicates an item is a component of the Alaska Hazardous Waste Management activities funded by 3011 grant funds.)

GOAL

Help communities and businesses commit to long-term environmental compliance and pollution prevention, by providing enforcement-free compliance assistance services. [RCRA]

OBJECTIVE: Establish avenues for improving small and rural community environmental compliance and pollution prevention, and successfully resolve conflicts that may arise between communities and the department.

Through internal evaluation of local community needs and external communication, reach out to interested communities to help them assess, rank, and solve their most pressing environmental problems. SPS will also work with interested communities to facilitate and advocate community priorities within DEC and with EPA.

Support new project permitting efforts by working with DEC programs to ensure that new projects and appropriate permits incorporate proactive environmental management and pollution prevention programs.

Develop and implement a community relations plan for Ketchikan addressing intra-agency tasks such as investigations, cleanup, water (NPDES) and air quality permitting.

Respond to and advocate for resolving community and business environmental concerns within DEC and during interactions with EPA.

Simplify general authorizations to promptly approve local activities such as open burns and gravel pits that discharge wastewater.

Develop evaluation “scorecard” system to facilitate and reward community self-evaluation of their environmental compliance and pollution prevention efforts.

Clarify EPA/DEC relationship to villages with respect to environmental oversight and service delivery so that villages understand state and federal roles and know about available services.

Performance Measures

DEC programs agree on procedures for providing multi-media and pollution prevention service to new development projects so that new projects maintain environmental quality with economic opportunity.

Successful plan created to address community concerns about the pulp mill closure and clean up activities through proper development of a Ketchikan community relations plan.

Community self-evaluation system developed and documentation of environmental concerns and progress documented in eight communities.

As demonstrated by customer feedback forms, businesses and communities value staff of the Division of Statewide Public Service, as trusted and credible sources of information and problem-solvers. Feedback is used to improve results from services.

OBJECTIVE: Increase visibility and use of compliance assistance services through development and implementation of outreach programs tailored to the needs of small business and communities.

Conduct 40 (20 per year) village environmental assessments.

Provide training to 40 water operators and respond to 500 requests for assistance from water plant operators.

Increase village understanding of environmental issues through direct hands-on community learning and school presentations.

Prevent “sewage on the ground” through technical assistance, review of Health Authority approvals for on-lot septic systems, and domestic wastewater plan review.

Respond, as necessary, to community concerns about sewage, hazardous materials, and wastewater spills and improper disposal.

Enhance and maintain information services and staff expertise by expanding resource information center and the internet home page; publish additional information materials including compliance assistance guidance sheets for air craft maintenance, boat marinas, and oil field service; continue training for

hazardous waste staff, including participation in the Western States Hazardous Waste Project and programs offered by nationally recognized McCoy trainers. [RCRA]

Conduct 50 hazardous waste compliance assistance site visits and address compliance issues in a manner consistent with DEC's compliance assistance procedures and protocols. [RCRA]

Conduct 10 follow up hazardous waste compliance assistance site visits to verify improved compliance. Conduct phone and/or letter surveys for other facilities that received site visits. Use results to improve service delivery. [RCRA]

Coordinate with EPA to ensure that new hazardous waste notifiers receive compliance assistance site visits. [RCRA]

Expand business/generator assistance services by adapting SPS' automotive service sector program, called *Pit Stop!*, to Fairbanks, and work with the Pollution Prevention program to design and implement assistance services for Associated General Contractors. Conduct 50 Pit Stop compliance assistance site visits.

Assist 35 asphalt plants, dry cleaners, rock crushing facilities and other small businesses obtain (and/or reduce pollutants to avoid) air quality operating permits.

Provide technical assistance to approximately 200 facilities needing help in understanding how Clean Air Act requirements apply to them.

Respond to an estimated 3,000 (1,500 per year) requests for technical assistance and compliance and pollution prevention information. Secure feedback forms from 10 percent of customers receiving technical assistance. [RCRA]

Develop and implement an improved process for tracking and measuring community assistance and business site visit activities that draws from successful evaluation programs in Washington and Oregon. [RCRA]

Performance Measures

Maintain high customer service delivery ratings and demonstrate compliance and prevention outcomes based on information obtained on customer feedback and site visit outcome reports provided by participating facilities. [RCRA]

Improved compliance, and progress toward compliance, in villages and communities receiving customized assistance.

Increased environmental management awareness in villages as residents become empowered to address their own environmental problems.

Documentation of output activities for compliance and community assistance services including site visits conducted, technical questions fielded, numbers of outreach presentations, and any improvements noted. [RCRA]

Sewage and wastewater spills are reduced by ten percent and cleaned up to protect public health.

Increase business participation in voluntary compliance assistance site visits by 30 percent.

As reported to DEC, track compliance improvements and prevention/recycling options adopted at 100 facilities receiving hazardous and other waste management on-site assistance services.

Compliance and compliance improvements in air quality are achieved at 35 facilities receiving direct air quality permit assistance

OBJECTIVE: Increase SPS efficiency by implementing assistance programs in cooperation with other service providers and communities.

Coordinate up-front environmental management assistance to economic development initiatives such as southeast community economic revitalization team, Rural Partnerships, Lessons without Borders, and new industrial projects.

Train 40 EPA, Vista, and Americorp representatives to conduct village environmental assessments and help develop procedures for effective delivery of environmental services to rural communities.

Develop “village environmental profile” internet database to provide agency staff with current information on Alaska villages.

Promote and participate in rural pollution initiatives including coordinating local pollution prevention round tables, participating in school programs and other outreach efforts.

Actively work with local communities to delegate specific elements of the sewage management program to encourage communities to develop the capacity to assume this responsibility.

Coordinate with other service providers to expand, promote, and market compliance assistance services pursuant to direction from the Governor’s Small Business Task Force.

Performance Measures

Communities successfully undertake responsibilities for management of sewage.

Intranet data base developed and track staff feedback on effectiveness of this database to better evaluate service to small communities.

Cooperative working relationships are established and maintained with service providers, EPA, Vista volunteers, and communities.

As demonstrated by feedback forms and other customer comments, SPS services are widely sought, as efforts to provide services are implemented.

OBJECTIVE: Partner with the business community and the public to increase statewide recycling rates beyond 7.5 percent by creating in-state markets for recycled materials and providing technical assistance.

Work with the Clean Washington Center and Alaska businesses to develop the information and plans necessary to secure support for investment in a medium density recycled fiberboard manufacturing plant in Alaska. Activities will include raw material sourcing, business planning, cost modeling for sourcing, intermediate processing needs assessment, designing and pricing a facility for processing raw materials, and marketing in-state procurement of end-products

Assist with developing in-state markets for glass by conducting demonstration projects using crushed glass meeting specification in septic filtration.

Conduct three *Best Practice Workshops* with local economic development agencies to identify opportunities for growing recycling industries and markets in Alaska.

Provide general assistance on the full range of recycling questions upon request of businesses, communities, and the public.

Work with recycling service sector and local communities, including Anchorage, to sustain and improve recycling outlets for the public and businesses.

Help deliver recycling and waste reduction education and information by maintaining strong relationships with organizations promoting recycling including: Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling, Green Star programs, environmental organizations, and industry associations.

Performance Measures

Interest created for private sector investment in recycled fiberboard and glass recycling industries.

Plans for recycled fiberboard manufacturing finished and progress toward implementation achieved.

Feasibility of using recycled glass in septic filtration systems is demonstrated and helps stimulate end-use markets for glass

Community of Anchorage develops a recycling program which includes specific waste diversion goals for the community.

Capacity increased for recycling industry development in Alaska through implementation of Best Practices Workshops for economic development agencies in Alaska. Local economic development organization establishes objectives for recycling industry development

EPA Commitments

Provide staff support to assist the state develop and deliver compliance assistance services. [RCRA]

Provide timely response to questions from compliance assistance staff regarding hazardous waste policy and interpretation. [RCRA]

Coordinate with DEC compliance assistance staff during planning and implementation of EPA-led compliance assistance initiatives in Alaska. [RCRA]

Coordinate with DEC SPS staff in the delivery of services to rural and small communities.

Help secure sufficient resources to deliver recycling, compliance assistance, community-based environmental services in Alaska. [RCRA]

Formally recognize the value of continuous improvement toward full compliance, especially in small communities and small businesses.

Formally acknowledge and support the role of compliance assistance services in achieving state and federal environmental protection goals and objectives in Alaska. [RCRA]

2. Pollution Prevention

The Pollution Prevention program achieves environmental quality with economic benefit by working with businesses and communities to eliminate waste, reduce waste management costs, and efficiently use natural resources. The non-enforcement and non-regulatory services offered by the Pollution Prevention program include: pollution prevention assessments, training, technical assistance, workshops, waste reduction and recycling resource information center, Green Star, Alaska Materials Exchange, and other industry partnership initiatives.

GOAL

Ensure businesses and communities give priority to prevention-based environmental protection approaches and they are routinely considered and used to achieve environmental and business objectives

Objective: Work to ensure that DEC regulatory and non-regulatory interactions with industry and communities include prevention-based strategies such as industry sector and/or geographic-based initiatives, voluntary pollution prevention partnerships, and supplemental environmental projects in enforcement resolution.

Increase DEC staff knowledge and expertise in pollution prevention by establishing prevention as a component of core staff training plans.

Work with programs to create prevention-oriented program measures to reward and encourage staff who implement pollution prevention-based projects and/or demonstrate prevention outcomes.

Performance Measures

Provide policy direction for incorporating pollution prevention into DEC staff training plans and program activity outcomes.

Document prevention-based activities and outcomes contained in community-based assistance initiatives.

Objective: Position pollution prevention as the environmental strategy of first choice by establishing incentives for facilities to achieve environmental objectives through prevention, under the Alaska Environmental Leadership program.

Draft regulations and/or conduct other activities necessary to implement the Alaska Environmental Leadership program to provide economic incentives for businesses to move beyond compliance and implement prevention programs.

Facilitate external advisory group working to assist the Department develop the Alaska Environmental Leadership program.

Performance Measures

The Environmental Leadership program is designed to attract broad participation from the business community.

DEC maintains a credible public process as it develops and implements the Leadership program.

Pollution prevention activity and outcomes increase as a result of business participation in the program.

Objective: Successfully meet public and private sector demand for information and services by maintaining core technical assistance functions including telephone assistance, on-site services, resource information center and sustaining existing pollution prevention partnerships.

Provide support in response to the estimated 3,000 (1,500/yr) technical assistance or outreach requests (received by SPS Division) for multi-media pollution prevention and compliance assistance information from Alaska businesses, rural communities, and the public.

Conserve natural resources and reduce reliance on virgin materials by coordinating implementation of programs which support the reuse of raw materials such as the Alaska Materials Exchange (AME) program. This includes publication of quarterly AME catalogs, tracking of exchanges, and program promotion.

Provide on-going coordination support to statewide Green Star program network, oil and gas pollution prevention partnership, interagency pollution prevention agreement with federal facilities, air quality small

business assistance program, community agreements, and compliance assistance efforts with the auto-service sector and hazardous waste generators.

Performance Measures

AME will be measured by tracking materials exchanged and cost savings to program users. The goal is to achieve one million dollars in disposal and raw materials savings through implementation of the Alaska Materials Exchange program by July 1999.

Increase use of the Alaska Materials Exchange program by 20 percent.

Document qualitative and quantitative waste reduction and prevention activities in oil and gas and federal facility initiatives by tabulating pollution prevention outcome reports voluntarily submitted by oil and gas and federal facilities.

Coordinate with Alaska Green Star programs to document prevention and energy conservation activities and cost savings.

Increase business achievement of the Green Star standards by 20 percent.

Using feedback forms, document customer satisfaction with services and whether services lead toward additional pollution prevention activity.

Objective: Build pollution prevention policies and practices into the goals and objectives of trade organizations and business assistance service providers.

Maintain pollution prevention technical assistance information center in order to effectively field technical assistance inquiries and to share information with other service providers. Distribute information using DEC home page. [RCRA]

Coordinate with Associated General Contractor's newly created environmental committee to incorporate pollution prevention programs into industry practices.

Develop a service delivery system with business assistance providers (such as the Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership) to ensure effective and coordinated delivery of services.

Performance Measures

Priority environmental concerns identified for general contractors and initiatives established to address these concerns through pollution prevention and appropriate compliance assistance methods.

Successful relationships are established and maintained with service providers.

Pollution prevention and business assistance providers coordinate on specific projects to increase efficiency and effectively respond to business assistance needs.

EPA Commitments

Provide input on development of Alaska Environmental Leadership program and keep DEC apprised of leadership initiatives in the Pacific Northwest states.

Assist the Pollution Prevention program secure resources to participate in the regional and national pollution prevention round table meetings.

Assist the Pollution Prevention program develop prevention-based outcome measures DEC programs and conduct pollution prevention and environmental management briefings/training for DEC staff.

Provide day-to-day staff support to help implement the activities of the Interagency Pollution Prevention Agreement with federal facilities including the federal facility round table, pollution prevention steering committee, and initiative projects.

3. Environmental Crimes

The **Environmental Crimes Unit** ensures full investigation and resolution of environmental crimes, correction of problems and environmental damage, and a fair operating climate for the majority who do comply with the law. The Environmental Crimes Unit is a special section funded by DEC in the Department of Law and is headed by an assistant attorney general in the Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals.

GOAL

Maintain public health, environmental quality, and natural resources for all Alaskans to enjoy and use by preventing and responding to serious environmental crimes.

OBJECTIVE: Ensure that Alaska businesses, organizations, communities, and the public understand and comply with all environmental laws and regulations.

Investigate significant threats of harm to public health or the environment.

Prepare evidence and present court testimony.

Use *Supplemental Environmental Projects* (SEPs) as tool to build prevention projects into successful resolution of environmental crimes.

Coordinate with the Alaska Departments of Law and Public Safety to protect Alaskans from potential economic and public health harm associated with criminal acts.

Educate communities and businesses about the public costs of not complying with environmental laws and regulations by issuing press accounts of all resolved environmental crimes to truly describe the harm and the consequences of non-compliance.

Maintain Compliance Assessment Tracking System (CATS) to monitor response to and resolution of environmental crimes in Alaska.

Performance Measures

Intentional acts resulting in serious environmental crimes are reduced.

Increased business and community understanding of environmental requirements contained in state and federal laws and regulations, and the cost of complying with these requirements.

Public and businesses acknowledge the professionalism with which the department investigates and responds to serious environmental crimes.

Settlements negotiated with pollution prevention projects are documented and tracked.

Through the use of CATS, the type and frequency of environmental crimes relating to individual DEC programs are understood and DEC programs take action to prevent future crimes.

EPA Commitments

Provide assistance, as requested, on case investigations and case prioritization.

E. Spill Prevention and Response

The **DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE** endeavors to prevent, respond to, and ensure the cleanup of unauthorized discharges of oil and hazardous.

1. Environmental Cleanup

The **Contaminated Sites Remediation Program** seeks to ensure that contaminated sites are evaluated and cleaned up in priority order, based upon risk. Currently there are over 400 such sites identified as "high priority."² Cooperative agreements with federal agencies allow state oversight of federal cleanup projects.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Program was written by Congress with the intent of preventing future Superfund sites and protecting human health and the environment. This is accomplished by using a two pronged approach. The first is preventive and regulates the generation and transportation as well as treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste. The second prong is a remediation element called Corrective Action which is used when sites, subject to RCRA, have a release to the environment (air, water or soil) that must be cleaned up.

Currently, the EPA Region 10 Office is responsible for full implementation of the core RCRA Program in Alaska. This entails a strong inspection and enforcement presence (averaging 40 to 50 inspections/year), pursuing enforcement actions which come from violations found during the inspections, working toward permitting all applicable treatment storage and disposal facilities, and continuing or initiating Corrective Action where there is a need for remediation. In addition, Region 10 sponsors an 1-800 information line and provides technical assistance to ADEC and the regulated community.

GOAL

Employ cost-effective solutions protective of human health and the environment to clean up sites contaminated by past improper disposal or discharges of hazardous substances.

OBJECTIVES: Ensure responsible parties assess and clean up sites contaminated with oil or other hazardous substances and that the state has adequate laws, standards, and oversight to guide the work. Support CERCLA implementation activities at Arctic Surplus and Standard Steel NPL sites by identifying the State of Alaska's "applicable or relevant and appropriate" regulations. Review and comment of Record of Decisions, Remedial Design and Remedial Action work plans, Community Relations Plans, Remedial Designs, Treatability Studies, sampling plans and reports, Operation and Maintenance Reports, and any other remedial documents related to the NPL projects.

Work with responsible parties at a minimum of 100 high priority sites to ensure progress in moving through the cleanup process. Provide technical assistance to responsible parties on site investigation, risk assessment, and cleanup technologies.

²The Contaminated Sites Remediation Program employs the Alaska Hazard Ranking Model (AHRM) to rank sites "high," "medium," or "low" strictly for the purpose of focusing program resources to address the worst sites first. On January 1, 1997, there were 457 high, 512 medium, and 716 low priority sites identified in the Contaminated Sites Database. The AHRM score for a contaminated site is not the same as the National Priorities List Hazard Ranking Score.

Review site assessments and review and approve 50 corrective action (cleanup) plans for high priority sites. Review and approve submitted risk assessments.

Monitor corrective actions to ensure cleanups are conducted in accordance with approved plans.

Conduct 50 field investigations to ensure sites are being addressed in accordance with approved corrective action plans.

"Close out" 75 sites where state cleanup standards have been met.

Oversee investigation and cleanup at the Ketchikan Pulp Corporation and Alaska Pulp Corporation; ensure these cleanups are consistent with federal and state standards and occur with community involvement in the decision making process.

Work with the U.S. Department of Defense and federal civilian agencies to prioritize federal sites for assessment and cleanup.

Review proposed plans and records of decision for cleanup of federal sites to ensure they meet state cleanup criteria.

Ensure investigation and cleanup at the highest priority federal facility sites meet statutory requirements, are cost effective, and include community involvement.

Develop a two-party agreement with the U.S. Air Force and the Corps of Engineers to clean up 100 sites and ensure cost reimbursement commensurate with level of effort.

In coordination with service branches, establish site cleanup priorities and ensure that reasonable funding requests are submitted into federal budget requests for next federal fiscal year and the projected five-year budget plans. Expedite contaminated site cleanup at closing military bases (Adak and Ft. Greely) to facilitate property transfer and economic reuse.

Reduce government expenditures to remediate sites, by entering into cooperative agreements with responsible parties with multiple sites.

Implement a voluntary cleanup program to expedite cleanup at medium and low priority sites, with minimal department oversight.

OBJECTIVE: Ensure the State is prepared to conduct site assessment and cleanup when necessary as a result of the absence or unwillingness of a responsible party.

Where responsible parties cannot be found or are unable or unwilling to respond, utilize term contractors to assess and clean up contaminated sites.

Obtain "outside" resources/support: term contractors for remediation and risk assessment; interagency agreements with Alaska Department of Defense, Departments of Natural Resources, and Transportation, and other state land managers; federal grants; remediation technology resources. These external resources will assist the department in cost effective cleanups that help protect human health and the environment.

OBJECTIVE: Clean up sites contaminated with oil and hazardous substances in a cost-effective manner to a level protective of human health and the environment, reducing damage to property and natural resources that communities use for economic development, subsistence and recreational use.

Enter into the database all newly identified contaminated sites that meet the database inclusion criteria.

Apply the Alaska Hazard Ranking Model to approximately 25 contaminated sites to enable systematic evaluation and prioritization of cleanup based on a potential threat to public health and the environment.

Maintain the statewide contaminated sites database to ensure that candidate contaminated sites are systematically addressed, that funding and staff allocation decisions are based on the most current knowledge, and that activities associated with contaminated sites are current.

Perform preliminary screenings or site assessments on approximately 20 contaminated sites to collect data associated with the ranking model and allow prioritization of sites for full site assessment and cleanup.

Under a Cooperative Agreement for CERCLA Site Assessment Activities, DEC will assist EPA in determining Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) eligibility. DEC will conduct at least ten pre-CERCLIS listing screening assessments by September 30, 1997. DEC will complete a "Site Screening form" for each site screening assessment conducted and submit these to EPA. For sites recommended for inclusion in CERCLIS, an "EPA Potential Hazardous Waste Site Identification" form will be completed. DEC and EPA will evaluate the success of this new pre-CERCLIS listing screening assessment approach and may modify the approach or conduct Preliminary Assessments (PAs) after September 30, 1997.

Consolidate the statewide database monthly, provide a quarterly quality assurance review, and review progress on priority ranking of sites.

Provide an annual report to the legislature that includes a prioritized list of contaminated sites.

Work with the public and restoration advisory boards to ensure public involvement in the cleanup process.

In coordination with the Department of Defense service branches, develop a plan for implementing a community involvement program that ensures interested communities and stakeholders have a voice in contaminated site cleanup priorities and decisions.

Ensure state and federal legislation and regulations address Alaska's needs and that EPA rule making remains flexible enough so that federal regulations do not hinder the most appropriate remedies in rural Alaska.

Participate in national dialogue on select RCRA hazardous waste management issues such as Land Disposal Restrictions, HWIR-Media, corrective action and RCRA/CERCLA interface. [RCRA]

Raise the awareness of RCRA hazardous waste management requirements throughout the Division of Spill Prevention & Response to ensure proper RCRA hazardous waste determinations and management for hazardous substance spill response. Activities supporting this priority can range from in house RCRA assistance to sponsoring formal RCRA training for ADEC personnel. [RCRA]

Coordinate corrective action/clean up activities at facilities which are subject to both RCRA Corrective Action and clean up under the Contaminated Sites Program. This includes the development and implementation of site specific communication plans for affected sites and coordinating the selection of cleanup levels. [RCRA]

ADEC will assist EPA in making “contained in” determinations and site specific treatability variances (anticipated 6 - 8 per year) and will review draft permits and permit modifications for corrective action and post-closure (anticipated 2 to 3 per year). [RCRA]

Provide ongoing CERCLA core program management and supervision; coordinate with EPA on all phases of CERCLA response.

Administer the Core Program Cooperative Agreement, Voluntary Cleanup Program EPA funding, the PA/SI Cooperative Agreement, and the Support Agency Cooperative Agreement. Subtasks include budget overview; preparation of financial assistance applications; coordination of amendment negotiations; request for proposal preparation; quarterly report preparation; participation in reviews, audits, and meetings; and clerical support.

Continue to work closely with the public and the regulated community to promulgate oil and hazardous substance cleanup regulations which provide clear direction on how to assess and remediate sites, streamline the level of department oversight and reduce costs to the responsible parties. Continue to develop cleanup standards and draft regulations, respond to public comments; draft policy and guidance documents detailing implementation of State cleanup programs.

Organize and carry out an ongoing public education and outreach program to educate Alaskans and other stakeholders on the final rule.

Continually monitor and follow nationwide developments in remediation technology and guidance, in particular presumptive remedies, free product recovery, and natural attenuation.

Follow nationwide developments in and comment on new or revised CERCLA legislation and rulemakings to ensure state and federal legislation and regulations address Alaska's needs; follow pertinent State legislation; e.g., Arizona's SB 1452, to identify tools and approaches being

employed in other states.

Track State cleanups for inclusion on CERCLIS.

Provide for professional development and education (air fare, per diem, tuition) of program staff. Appropriate education may include, but is not limited to, sampling for hazardous materials, groundwater investigations, risk assessment, risk communication, and remediation technologies; provide for travel (air fare, per diem) to Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials mid-year, annual, and Superfund conferences; provide for travel to Region 10 Superfund and cooperative agreement meetings, as scheduled by EPA.

Respond to requests for general program information from other governmental agencies, the public, owners/operators, environmental groups, and the media; assist with the preparation of an annual report to the state legislature.

Put into place our new public participation manual to enhance public participation and community outreach.

Provide for necessary equipment and supplies (contractual services such as space rental, telephones, copier, and janitorial services, are now included in the indirect fee).

Provide for ongoing legal/technical assistance for the development and review of cleanup standards and other regulations, interpretation of CERCLA, via a Reimbursable Services Agreement with the Department of Law.

By Jan. 1, 1998, identify default Alaska human health risk assessment exposure assumptions for subsistence. Develop a checklist of ecological assessment endpoints so that all ecological risk assessments for contaminated sites in Alaska will not overlook potentially significant ecological risks within Alaska's distinct ecoregions. Develop program capability in the field of probabilistic risk assessment.

Develop program capability in the area of institutional controls and determining reasonably anticipated future land use.

Begin to develop the program's procedural approach to assessing natural resource damages.

Develop a Site Manager's Handbook by Jan. 1, 1998.

OBJECTIVE: Recover the state's costs for oversight and cleanup of contaminated sites.

Reduce government expenditures to remediate sites, by entering into cooperative agreements with responsible parties that have multiple sites.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES/OUTCOMES

MEASURE	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97 STATUS	FY 98 STATUS
Sites on National Priority List (NPL)	8	8	7	7
NPL Construction Completion	0	0	1	1
Brownfields Grants Issued	0	0	1	unknown
Sites Entered on Database	181	198	282	30
Total Sites on Database	1,249	1,530	2,024	2,054
High Priority Sites Database	42	52	30	30
Total High Priority Sites	81	100	463	418
Sites Ranked on Database	88	62	152	25
Risk Assessment Work Plans Reviewed	7	21	23	37
Risk Assessments Reviewed	8	24	27	43
Corrective Action Plans Approved	2	11	10	50
Voluntary Cleanup Sites initiated	N/A	N/A	10	15
Voluntary Cleanup Sites completed	N/A	N/A	6	10
High Priority Sites Completed	8	10	2	10
Federal Sites Completed	107		77	---

EPA PRIORITIES

Conduct emergency and other rapid cleanup actions where an imminent and substantial endangerment may exist. EPA will keep DEC informed of these actions.

Complete cleanup at NPL sites in Alaska.

Make Brownfields development funding available to individual communities as appropriate.

Assist DEC in development and implementation of its contaminated sites program including:

Technical assistance on interpretation of CERCLA statutes and regulation.

Access to EPA training curriculums relative to contaminated site investigation and cleanup.

Conduct and assist CERCLA preliminary assessment and site investigations.

Coordinate corrective action/cleanup activities at facilities subject to both RCRA corrective action and cleanup under the Contaminated Sites Program.

Make “contained-in” decisions for environmental media contaminated with hazardous waste and work on implementation issues related to the Hazardous Waste Identification media rule.

2. Oil Spill Prevention and Response (including above ground storage tanks)

The **Industry Preparedness and Pipeline Program** encourages industry to institute prevention measures for oil and hazardous substances. It also works to ensure that industry response plans are complete and that industry has adequate resources for rapid response. Alaska law requires oil spill prevention, financial responsibility, and oil discharge prevention and contingency planning for the oil industry. It also requires oil spill response action contractors to register with the state.

GOAL

Provide oversight and assistance to producers, transporters and distributors of crude oil and refined oil products to reduce the likelihood of oil spills and ensure facilities have sufficient response capability and readiness.

OBJECTIVE: Assist operators in preventing and responding to oil spills by reviewing and approving submitted oil discharge prevention and response plans and statements of financial responsibility.

Provide for public participation and complete review of a company’s oil discharge prevention and contingency plan within 90 days following receipt of a completed plan.

Conduct preapplication meetings with industry to assist in the preparation of contingency plans.

Meet with regulated communities to assist in contingency plan reviews.

Attend meetings of the Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Councils and meetings of the Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. Spill Cooperative.

Provide technical assistance and information to contingency plan applicants and the general public on industry spill prevention and response requirements.

Participate in multi-agency oil related issues within the Joint Pipeline Office for contingency plans of the TAPS line and the Valdez Marine Terminal.

Work cooperatively with the Departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Game and other agencies on contingency plan issues.

Conduct public hearings and meetings regarding regulation development, adjudicatory hearings and plan appeals.

Use database to track more than 150 contingency plans, more than 450 facilities and their associated oil storage tanks.

Include all regulated oil storage tanks into the contingency plan's tanks database.

Update contingency plan database monthly.

Prepare operational guidance, policies and procedures including revising DEC's Oil Discharge Prevention & Contingency Plan Application and Review Guidelines.

Develop work plans, coordinate with field offices, hold biweekly conference calls, review fiscal documents, prepare budget, hold annual state program meetings.

Attend oil pollution prevention and response seminars and conferences for employee professional development and training in latest spill technologies and techniques.

OBJECTIVE: As a spill prevention measure, inspect regulated facilities, pipelines and vessels for compliance with approved oil discharge prevention.

Perform facility, pipeline and vessel inspections and conduct simulated oil spill exercises to evaluate the use of spill prevention practices and assess the response readiness of operators.

Provide technical assistance to operators during inspections of their facilities.

Conduct a total of four oil spill drills at facilities that represent the greatest potential impact to the environment, e.g., North Slope, Valdez tankers and terminal, and Cook Inlet operations.

Inspect annually 40 percent of the more than 427 regulated facilities, including vessels.

Complete written follow-up responses to inspected operators within 45 days to assist in remedying observed problems.

OBJECTIVE: Certify that each regulated facility, pipeline and vessel owner maintains adequate financial resources to clean up spilled oil and pay for damages.

Approve or disapprove an operator's application for certificate of financial responsibility, within 10 days of receipt of application, through evaluation of proposed methods used to demonstrate financial responsibility obligations.

OBJECTIVE: Register oil spill response action contractors that are committed to provide response services to regulated facilities, pipeline and vessel owners.

Review applications for registration of a primary action contractor for oil spill services within 15 days of receiving a complete application.

Maintain a data base of all registered contractors to ensure the program is monitored for compliance.

The **Prevention and Emergency Response Program** is Alaska's primary response organization for oil and hazardous substance releases. Program staff implement state law to protect public health and the environment from direct or indirect effects of spills, guard the safety of persons involved, confirm the satisfactory cleanup and mitigation of spill effects and restoration of damages, and recover state-incurred costs to the Oil and Hazardous Substance Release Prevention and Response Fund.

GOAL

Prevent and mitigate oil and hazardous substance releases through government planning and rapid response.

OBJECTIVE: Protect public health and the environment from the effects of spills.

Receive all spill reports, evaluate for safety, public health and environmental impacts, and initiate appropriate actions to ensure their containment, control and cleanup.

Require the responsible party to take prompt and appropriate action to contain, control and clean up spills.

Oversee cleanups undertaken by the responsible party and take over cleanup actions when judged inadequate.

Conduct emergency responses to significant oil and hazardous substance spills statewide in cases in which no responsible party is identified or there is an inadequate response.

Pursue recovery of State costs for oversight and cleanup of oil and hazardous substance spills.

OBJECTIVE: Maintain response team readiness for responding to a spill at all times.

Operate a statewide spill reporting, notification and call out system and procedures for mobilizing emergency response personnel at any time.

Conduct spill response drills and training exercises with industry and other state, local and federal agencies.

Expand two-way radio communications capability in at-risk areas of the State.

Manage term contracts with private spill response organizations.

Pre-stage and manage response equipment packages and trained local personnel in high-risk areas throughout Alaska.

Enter into agreements with local governments to provide for cooperative responses to oil and hazardous substance releases.

Design, procure and deploy nearshore response equipment packages in Alaska coastal communities.

OBJECTIVE: Provide timely and accurate spill information to reduce the number of oil and hazardous substance spills.

Gather, analyze and disseminate comprehensive spill information using a statewide spill information database.

Coordinate and manage spill reporting procedures with state and federal agencies and the National Response Center and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration first-class electronic notification systems.

OBJECTIVE: Develop and maintain statewide and regional spill response plans.

Complete, maintain and update the ten Sub-Area/Regional Plans for Alaska.

Provide training to responders, agency representatives, and others on the Unified Plan.

Conduct an annual review of the Unified Plan, revise and update as necessary. Plan, develop and schedule internal and external drills to test procedures in the Unified Plan and Sub-Area Plans.

Track the frequency and causes of spills and advise industry and the public of trends.

Target efforts to prevent or reduce the size of frequently-occurring types of spills.

Increase the percentage of staff time for prevention-related activities such as training and drills.

Establish mutual spill reduction objectives with industry.

Evaluate the status of the State's implementation of existing statutory and regulatory prevention measures.

Conduct quarterly Prevention Team meetings focused on program prevention needs.

OBJECTIVE: Identify spill response technologies suitable for Alaska conditions.

Conduct statewide hazards analyses to determine potential threats and best response strategies for potential releases of oil and hazardous substances.

Complete spill prevention and response research and development projects.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES/OUTCOMES

Conduct a timely assessment of all spill reports received (2,500 or more on average per year) and ensure that all spills which pose an imminent threat to health and the environment (250 or more on average per year) receive an immediate and effective response.

Pursue cost recovery from the responsible party for all spills which incur State expenses for response activities.

Reduce the number of spills of hazardous materials and/or oil by 15 percent below the prior fiscal year.

Participate in eight major state response drills to test implementation of the Unified Plan.

Complete the Kodiak, Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound Sub-Area/Regional Plans.

Enter into local response agreements with Kodiak, Cordova, Anchorage, Dutch Harbor, and Naknek.

Complete near shore equipment purchase plans for Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, Haines and Naknek.

Install expanded two-way radio communications capability on the North Slope and Southeast Alaska.

EPA Commitments

None. A Memorandum of Agreement with EPA on cooperative response to spills is currently being drafted.

3. Underground Storage Tanks and Small Capacity Aboveground Storage Tanks

The **Storage Tanks Program** is charged with preventing spills from fuel storage tank systems. It provides technical and financial assistance to tank owners and operators for tank upgrades, closures, and site cleanups. The State Tank Assistance Program offers grants and loans to owners and operators of underground storage tank facilities to cleanup, upgrade and/or close their facilities. The aboveground storage tank program is in the process of developing tank notification, operator training, priority ranking and financial assistance.

GOAL

Prevent spills from fuel storage tank systems, and provide technical and financial assistance to tank owners and operators for tank upgrades, closures and site cleanups.

OBJECTIVES: Know the condition of all regulated underground storage tanks (UST) in Alaska.

Register all USTs, and track the location and status of 7,900 USTs.

Use Access database to track 7900 USTs including 150 UST closures, 150 site assessments/tank tightness tests, and 50 upgrades. (UST)(UST)

Identify 100 new UST leaking sites and continue to track the 750 cleanup sites still in progress. (LUST)

Maintain 1,800 persons on the mailing list, 250 persons on the tank workers database, and 878 UST owners. (UST/LUST)

Send invoices to all of the fee-required UST facilities (600), receive registration fees, follow-up tank owners/operators who did not submit fees (3 percent), and identify 300 non-compliance tank facilities through registration forms, closure and other data. (UST)

Survey approximately 700 UST facilities for financial responsibility (insurance). (UST)

Improve data management and efficiency by combining UST and leaking underground storage tank (LUST) data into a centralized database. (UST/LUST)

Handle all administrative and management work and issues related to the Storage Tank Program, including policies, reports, grants, work plans, training, inventories and state program delegation.

OBJECTIVE: Protect public health and the environment by helping owners and operators of regulated underground storage tanks prevent and clean up leaks from their tanks.

Increase the number of tank workers and qualified workers by 10 percent.

Assist Division of Occupational Licensing in evaluating 75 applications for tank workers, chair one Technical Review Committee meeting, and develop a third party facility inspector program.

Review qualifications and approve 400 persons to perform work under UST Standard Sampling Procedures Manual and maintain a list of 676 “qualified persons” in 122 firms. (LUST)

Inspect and monitor progress made for upgrade and cleanup at approximately 200 UST facilities.

Conduct 40 UST site reconnaissances, inspections and oversights during LUST assessment, and review 50 UST tank tightness tests. (UST)

Conduct 150 UST site inspections to identify non-compliance facilities for leak prevention and detection standards, and identify potential LUST sites during inspections. (UST)

Initiate cost recovery of expenditures for federal funded LUST oversight. (LUST)

Prepare an inspection checklist and strategy for facilities to be inspected.

Provide technical assistance to 1,000 UST facilities, 250 aboveground storage tank facilities, 350 tank workers and, 500 members of the general public.

Receive and answer telephone, fax and in-person requests for technical assistance, including 1,200 UST hotline calls. (LUST/UST)

Maintain a lending library in four locations, and distribute 500 public information documents. (UST)

Prepare a quarterly public information newsletter and distribute to 2200 persons. (LUST/UST)

Hold three UST workshops for owners/operators. (UST)

Maintain a Storage Tank Program home page (expect 4,000 visits this year) and respond to 200 requests for information via electronic mail. (UST)

Prepare quarterly grant status reports for Board of Storage Tank Assistance meetings.

Implement public participation plans and community relations plans at sites where community impacts are identified.

Administer the Storage Tank Assistance Fund and distribute \$2.0 million in cleanup and upgrade/closure grants.

Provide information for biannual Board of Storage Tank Assistance and Financial Assistance Program reports to the legislature.

Track all of the grants after awards to ensure only grant eligible costs and tasks are billed, and track and set priority for oversight of LUST cleanups funded by Financial Assistance Program and other state resources.

Process and issue five loans to pay a portion of UST cleanup activities.

Hold four board meetings to determine allocation of grant funds.

Conduct technical review of 25 UST cleanup grant work plans by field staff.

Improve compliance with UST requirements by approximately 10 percent.

Review UST sites assessments (1,760), corrective action plans and reports (350), and release investigation reports (100). (LUST)

Provide seven courtesy plan reviews for UST installations, upgrades, and closures. (UST)

Review and approve four remediation facility plans to handle contaminated soils from LUST sites. (LUST)

Utilize a progressive compliance approach to evaluate and implement UST enforcement actions for leak correction and cleanup. (UST/LUST)

Issue warnings for leak prevention non-compliance during inspections of UST facilities and negotiate two UST compliance agreements with State/federal agencies. (UST)

OBJECTIVE: Develop and implement an aboveground storage tank program with four major components: tank notification/inventory, tank operator training, tank condition priority ranking and financial assistance.

Survey approximately 2,000 aboveground storage tank facilities and maintain an inventory of all known petroleum ASTs that store less than 10,000 barrels.

Merge all aboveground storage tank data into one database and combine with UST data.

Draft an AST operator training curriculum for stakeholder review and comment.

Apply a uniform statewide priority ranking and selection process to distribute state resources for upgrade of ASTs.

Address high priority cleanup of AST sites through the Alaska Hazards Ranking Model and the Contaminated Sites Program.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES/OUTCOMES

MEASURE	FY 95 STATUS	FY 96 STATUS	CURRENT STATUS (Qt2-FY 97)	FY 98 STATUS
Total active underground tanks	2,486	2,362	2,352	
Total leaking UST sites	1,285	1,302	1,314	
Unprotected tanks	1,217	1,188	1,189	
Tanks with new tank standards	505	585	651	
Tanks closed according to regulations	3,479	3,623	3,650	
Cleanup sites initiated	551	612	718	
Cleanup sites completed	491	544	561	
Worker's Certified	386	406	269	
Grants/Loans funded (number)	641	688	714	
Grants/Loans funded (dollars)	\$16,914K	\$18,996K	\$19,533K	
Labs approved	N/A	38	45	
Qualified Persons/Firms	N/A	426/50	676/122	

EPA Commitments

Provide Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation with assistance in preparing for state program approval.

Provide Department of Environmental Conservation with technical assistance and rulings on interpretation of UST regulations, and with information on other states' programs.

At Department of Environmental Conservation's request, conduct or assist in public outreach activities in Alaska.

Take the lead on enforcement at federal facilities when needed as well as continuing to retain enforcement authority for federal Underground Storage Tank regulations of all regulated tanks in the state.

Provide training to Department of Environmental Conservation staff on compliance inspection activities and comments on inspection strategy developed as part of the State Improvement Project compliance inspection project.

The Environmental Protection Agency will provide the state with two years of technical assistance and updates for the UST Access database until January 1, 1998.

4. Exxon Valdez Damage Assessment and Restoration

As part of the legal settlement following the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, the U.S. District Court approved a plea agreement that resolved various criminal charges against Exxon as well as a civil settlement for recovery of natural resources damages. resulting from the oil spill. Exxon agreed to pay \$900 million with annual payments stretched over a 10-year period. A portion of these funds are to be used for restoration. The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council was formed to oversee restoration and consists of three state and three federal trustees. The Commissioner of the DEC is one of the state trustees. The activities of the EVOS Trustee Council fall into three main categories: 1) research, monitoring, and general restoration; 2) habitat protection (large and small parcel acquisition programs); and 3) public information, science management, and administration. In addition to its role as a Trustee agency, the department oversees the successful and efficient completion of EVOS restoration projects funded through DEC by the Trustee Council.

OBJECTIVES

Assist the commissioner as *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council member and manage restoration projects.

Oversee the completion of the Sound Waste Management facilities construction, Kodiak Island Waste Management Plan, and Chenega Shoreline Restoration projects.

Ensure high quality products and project completions on time and within budget.

Provide review and comments on proposed scientific research projects.

Provide review and comments on proposed habitat acquisitions.

F. Administrative Services

The **DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES** anticipates needs and provides timely and responsive support for the department's programs and personnel. Its functions are personnel and payroll services; budget preparation and oversight; public information; fiscal control; all department data processing; supply; grant, capital project, and contract accounting; and leasing and property control and management functions. (This narrative includes activities of Director's offices and the Commissioner's office.)

Goal

Incorporate comprehensive planning into the management of the department to improve communication and improve service delivery, and to enhance use of available funds and positions.

Definition: Establish or review existing management systems to ensure department actions, decisions and priorities make the best use of available resources, are implemented in a consistent and fair manner, provide excellent customer service and contribute to the accomplishment of the long-term goals of the agency.

OBJECTIVES:

Prepare a strategic plan for the department using a process that provides for public involvement.

Improve the organization of the department to improve efficiency and customer service.

Seek flexibility from federal agencies for grants and program requirements.

Present an annual report to the public describing progress in meeting long-term goals.

Increase program staff involvement and accountability in developing and implementing the department's spending plans.

Require individual training plans as part of employee work plans and evaluations.

Identify methods to give supervisors authority to give immediate, meaningful rewards.

Increase use of accountability systems such as employee work plans, performance standards, and evaluations and hold directors accountable for their timely completion.

Develop employee incentive programs to identify procedural and policy changes to increase efficiencies. Based on employee input, revise systems and procedures to inspire confidence, reduce time and costs, increase flexibility and maintain accountability.

Maintain clear and consistent communication between management and employees. Consult with staff regularly to evaluate the effectiveness of internal department communications.

Develop and implement an orientation program to ensure all staff are familiar with department programs and services.

Ensure that decisions are clear and consistent with law, rule, policy and the missions of the department. When a decision differs from past policy or practice, document and justify the change to ensure consistent future actions.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Complete a draft strategic plan by June 30, 1998. Conduct public hearings during August and September. After adoption, issue an annual report to the public on progress meeting long term goals.

Recognizing that some of the efforts included in this goal are “new work”, identify, list, evaluate and prioritize existing workload for administrative staff. Consult staff in administrative services, the divisions, and other departments. Identify creative options to streamline or change work flow to accommodate maximum service delivery with declining staff. Document decisions to extend the time necessary to complete work or to stop providing low priority services.

Include in each newsletter, on our internet home page and in public mailings customer satisfaction survey questions. Have staff distribute prepaid “How did I do?” cards to customers to encourage feedback. Include customer services questions on warrant stubs. Provide regular customer service training to aid staff in successful one on one communications with our customers. Use public information staff to follow up to customer responses and provide feedback, guidance and summaries to the department.

Annually, prepare or update the department’s PPA/PPG agreement with EPA. Monitor grants which are included and seek improvements in the number of grants included.

Prepare annual detailed spending plans to support budget requests. Update those spending plans based on approved authorization.

Convene a departmental work group led by the human resource office. Use this forum to develop methods to allow supervisors to reward employees, set standards for work plans and training plans, develop an employee orientation program. By year-end, provide recommendations for consideration by the Director’s and Commissioner’s Office.

Use the internet to publish administrative procedures. By mid year, ensure that the system is in place, an index to procedures is developed, and that twenty-five high priority procedures have been completed and are available on the internet. Establish a calendar or schedule to ensure that the remaining procedures are completed within the following twelve months.

Conduct monthly brown bag lunches between the Commissioner and staff to discuss departmental issues. For significant issues (such as budget, major spills or releases, regulations changes, or other major projects), send departmental e-mail communications on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis to all employees advising current status and likely outcomes. Survey department staff to identify communication successes and failures in our past and use those to build communications models for our current activities. Evaluate the communication successes or failures of departmental efforts where large

groups of people are represented by a smaller group. On a quarterly basis, survey employees for examples of communication successes and failures and use results to improve communications efforts.

Establish a departmental policy to cite relevant law, rule, policy and mission statement when issuing a written or verbal decision. When the decision differs from past policy or practice, document and justify the change. Establish a central reading file for change documents and use that file to schedule regular updates to laws, regulations, rules, policies and mission statement.